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THE TIMES

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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

'Open meetings' to counter the left

Blair seeks tighter grip on his party

By Philip Webster, political editor

TONY BLAIR is planning to carry on his Labour Party revolution with a package of internal changes designed to attract more members and curb the last power bastions of the old Left.

Having scrapped Clause 4 of the party's constitution and downgraded the annual conference, the Prime Minister now intends to shake up the way the party operates at the grassroots.

In a move that will be opposed by traditionalists, he is set to reform or even abolish the General Committee which for decades has been the power base for activists in every constituency party and the bane of many MPs called to account before them.

Instead he wants the often interminable monthly meetings in draughty halls, with hard-core members passing resolutions on a multitude of subjects, to become a thing of the past. The main focus of local party affairs would instead become "all-member meetings", concentrating on policies of interest to ordinary people. Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency has been a pioneer in the field. Others are following.

The General Committee is made up of representatives from the party's branches across the constituency, trade unions with members living in the area, and other affiliated societies. Its role was originally to manage local parties but over the years became the place where the most earnest members spent their hours in debate.

Such meetings, according to Labour's modernisers, allowed unrepresentative minorities to flourish. For while many people were driven away by boredom, persistent leftwingers were prepared to sit through the long meetings, which the Militant Tendency and other extremist groups used to build their influence in the Seventies.

Now, with Labour's membership beginning to dip from its post-election peak, Mr Blair has told friends that he wants to "break the GC culture". Although no decisions have been taken, he wants to open up local Labour parties so that party meetings become *enjoyable occasions*. "Some members find our present structures deeply alienating," a senior Labour source said. "It is time to stop these committees behaving as if they were all mini-parliaments. People are not joining our party to be lectured on rules and resolutions."

The process of "voluntary modernisation" is already under way in some areas. Several parties have decided that the general committees should meet less regularly and a handful not at all.

Key decisions such as approval of election candidates are taken by a constituency's executive committee, which is made up of branch representatives and constituency officers, but everyone is invited to the "all members' meetings", which ministers often address. Other decisions are dealt with by smaller bodies, such as local policy forums and election campaign committees.

Mr Blair is considering making such changes general across the party, which would mean amendments to the party constitution at next year's conference. A "healthy party" task force under Ian McCartney, the trade minister and national executive member, is looking at possible changes and Mr Blair is expected to use his report as the basis of the next phase of change and to bring forward proposals early next year.

Ministers are frustrated that their hopes of turning Labour into a mass membership party have not been realised. After rising above 400,000 during the 1997 election year it is now reputed to be about 380,000.

"The country voted for us. Some people joined because they thought it would help to get the Tories out. But now they need good reasons to stay and we must give them the party they deserve," one said.

Under reforms which came into operation this year, the National Policy Forum has become the party's main policy-making body. The annual conference can reject its reports altogether, but not amend them. The days when delegates spent hours "compositing" motions to put to the conference have largely gone.

Kenneth Starr, the "federally funded sex policeman", being sworn in at the start of impeachment proceedings against President Clinton yesterday

Starr's turn to face the inquisitors

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

KENNETH STARR, President Clinton's tormentor for the past four years, became the subject of an inquisition himself yesterday as the third impeachment hearings in American history opened amid bitterness and rancour.

The independent prosecutor attacked Mr Clinton as hard as he defended himself, accusing the President of repeated deception and abuse of power. In return, he was denounced as a "federally paid sex policeman".

Mr Starr said that he welcomed the opportunity to give an account of his investigation for the first time. His team had not enjoyed or relished their task. "My office and I revere the law. I am proud of what we have accomplished. We were assigned a difficult job. We have tried to be both fair and thorough," he said.

His report had never passed judgment on the relationship between Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, nor suggested that it was a high crime or misdemeanour worthy of impeachment. "The referral is instead about obstruction of justice, lying under oath, tampering with witnesses and abuse of power."

He added: "The evidence suggests that the President repeatedly used the machinery of government and the powers of his office to conceal his relationship with Monica Lewinsky."

But Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee tore into Mr Starr. John Conyers described Mr Starr's report into Mr Clinton's affair with Ms Lewinsky as "tawdry, salacious and unnecessarily graphic" and said that Mr Starr had crossed the line into obsession.

"The idea of a federally paid sex policeman spending millions of dollars to trap an unfaithful spouse would have been unthinkable prior to the Starr investigation," he said.

The White House said that Mr Starr's statement was conspicuously short of the sexual details that had upset large sections of the public. "It's a PG-rated version of his X-rated referral. They scrubbed out the sex," one official said.

Sleepy sideshow, page 19

One small step to stars

The first piece of the £13 billion international space station will be lifted into orbit from Kazakhstan today. The Zarya module was built by a Russian company and will be launched by a Russian rocket — but it has been paid for by America ..... Page 11

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ITN wins fight to kill News at Ten

By Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley

THE death knell for *News at Ten* was finally sounded yesterday, in spite of loud and repeated protests from the Prime Minister, other politicians and most viewers.

The Independent Television Commission voted by seven to three to allow ITN to kill the 30-year-old bulletin with the trademark Big Ben "bongs".

But its newscaster Trevor McDonald will survive to present the *half-hour* replacement programme at 6.30pm, as well as an hour-long weekly current affairs programme — at 10pm. There will also be a 20-minute bulletin at 11pm, possibly presented by Dermot Murnaghan.

Announcing the decision, the ITC chairman Sir Robin Biggam said that it was right to give ITV the chance to test a new schedule with more comedy and drama between 9pm and 11pm. 30pm.

"In a multichannel age, direct intervention by a regulator to dictate the precise scheduling of a programme, even an institution such as *News at Ten* looks increasingly inappropriate," Sir Robin said.

But his conclusion was at odds with 80 per cent of the people who wrote to the ITC about the issue, with a majority of people interviewed by MORI, and with politicians of all persuasions.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport said last night: "We have passed a new milestone in the *dumbing down* of Britain. The ITC exists to protect standards but has decided to allow ratings to come first."

"The following item may upset some people — particularly me"

Biggam: "ITV schedule must have its chance"

John Major was also withering in his criticism. "*News at Ten* is an institution. Moving it is a grave mistake. I suspect it will lead to a downgrading of the quality of evening television and reduce the ability of the independent companies to report breaking news throughout the evening."

And a spokesman for Mr Blair said: "He has made it clear that his preference was to keep it at ten o'clock."

ITV had asked for the right to move the main evening *news programme* as part of its plan to revamp its schedule in the face of increasing competition. The ITC go-ahead means that it will be able to broadcast more adult comedy, hard-hitting documentaries, drama and uninterrupted films between 9pm and 11pm.

The Commission said yesterday it was giving its approval on condition that there will be *no reduction in the funding*, range or quality of national and international news; no reduction in public service values and a greater diversity of programme in peak viewing times; and at least 12 half-hour slots for regional programmes on weekdays with another programme at weekends.

The ITC, which has also insisted on news headlines being broadcast as close to 10pm as possible each night, will review the changes in a year and demand action if they are seen to be failing. But the ITC chief executive Peter Rogers conceded that once the decision had been taken "the genie could not be put back in the bottle" and *News at Ten* would not return.

The ITV chief executive Richard Eyre welcomed the decision and promised an "exciting and far-reaching overhaul of ITV's primetime schedule". He said the ITC conditions appeared reasonable and ITV was confident it could meet them.

Peter Barnard, page 7
Leading article, page 25
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This year's traditional turkey may be the last

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

The traditional farm-fresh turkey, with gently rotting innards still intact, may be seen in butchers' windows for the last time this Christmas.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister and *bête noire* of unpasteurised milk drinkers and T-bone steak lovers, believes the birds pose a hygiene threat. He would prefer them all to be disembowelled in licensed slaughterhouses or meat-cutting plants as happens in *the rest of the EU*. If his view prevails, butchers would no longer be able to buy turkeys from farmers with the head, feet and giblets still intact — a state known in the trade as long-legged or New York-dressed.

Turkey farmers said yesterday that small producers could be forced out of business because they would not be able to afford the extra labour and equipment to needed to dress the fowl themselves.

Butchers said they would lose control over the amount of time the birds were hung before being eviscerated, a crucial factor in creating the superior flavour of the traditional turkey.

A strict code of practice requires that the birds must be mainly hand-plucked, be hung for at least seven days, be at least 18 weeks old at slaughter and be fed mostly on cereals with no use of growth-promoting drugs.

About 400,000 such birds are sold each year, and it is estimated that up to half of them are sent to butchers whole. But the vast majority of the 10 million turkeys sold at Christmas are intensively-reared birds bred to convert food quickly into huge amounts of breast meat. They sell for as little as a third of the price of the traditional variety.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that the regulations were under review, but could not say when proposals might be put out for consultation.

He did, however, confirm: "We would like to see all the preparation of poultry done in licensed abattoirs where conditions are carefully controlled and cleanliness is assured."

Tony's tabloid touch leaves Lords staring at the abyss

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Does anyone know the Old French for "Whatever happened to that one, then?"

We ask, because at the Prorogation of Parliament which occurred yesterday in the Lords, a list of the Acts which Parliament has passed in session now closing is read out. But where the devil was the European Elections Act?

After each Act's declaration, a behosed flunkey turns solemnly from the Throne and declares *"La Reyne le veult!"* which means "The Queen wants it".

Thus, yesterday: "Waste Minimisation Act."

"La Reyne le veult!"

"Registration of Political Parties Act."

"La Reyne le veult!"

One by one, the Bills which had gone forward from both Houses of Parliament were listed as Acts. But one key Bill, promised by Her Majesty herself in that very Chamber in the last Queen's Speech, was missing. Should these mysteries not enjoy an archaic reportage of their own? In *The Times's Revised Lords Procedure*, it might go like this:

(Reader:) "European Elections Act."

(Flunkey:) "Où est-il?"

(All peers:) "Tory faux pas!"

Instead, the errant Act was notable yesterday only by a silence — and a curiously agitated air among the Lords and Ladies themselves. They just couldn't sit still. Not within living memory had their doings occupied the front pages of all the tabloid newspapers together. Good heavens! They actually mattered.

In a Question before Prorogation, about the dispensing of aspirins by pharmacists, Lord Stewartby, 63, had begun: "My Lords, as one of those who does take a junior aspirin every morning in hopes of avoiding a heart-attack..." (sympathetic nods) "as a result of excitement in your lordships' House..."

They were almost rolling in the aisles. One bishop, slumped so deep in prayer that it was possible to mistake his meditation for slumber, sat bolt upright, electrified.

Even the Queen's speech (read out on Prorogation, by the Lord Chancellor) seemed to have woken up. Out goes the dull and dignified language in which draughtsmen used to frame the Queen's Government's account of its own doings in the session being closed; and in comes the jauntily tabloid language of new Labour's rebranded Britain.

Her Majesty's speech started conventionally enough ("We remember with pleasure our visit to Canada in June," she lied) but all at once snapped to attention: "The education of young people has been my Government's TOP priority!"

Can you honestly imagine Her Majesty saying that? As well suppose she might start her day by summoning a footman: "After breakfast, a brisk walk with the corgies is my TOP priority. Then we'll go walkabout in Windsor, shaking hands with the many, not the few..."

Her speech to the Lords and Commons (MPs standing crowded at the Bar by the Chamber's entrance) droned on for ages, strolling boastfully through the achievements of the last eighteen months. If the Queen did not quite declare "no return to Tory boom and bust!" then we must assume that someone at the Palace had drawn the line at Alastair Campbell's first draft. But Downing Street did appear to have got the Government's "vision" for the future past the Royal censors.

At last it was over. MPs were dismissed. Madam Speaker and her cohorts — dowdy in the presence of all this finery — bowed and left, MPs following. We could hear the hubbub of a departing crowd of elected politicians, echoing down the corridor like the sound of a farmyard, fading as the beasts lumbered back to home pasture.

The lords, hereditaries and all, were left in silence, all gilt and ermine and scarlet, staring into an abyss.

Heads win fight against 'unfair' results index

Ministers drop value-added ranking from school league tables, writes John O'Leary

MINISTERS bowed to a chorus of criticism from head teachers yesterday and dropped a controversial new measure of teenagers' progress from school league tables to be published in less than a fortnight.

The decision to abandon a five-point grading designed to iron out differences in schools' intake was condemned by the Tories as a "humiliating U-turn". The move came only a week after David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, had insisted that the measure was valid and refused to "suppress" the data.

The "progress index" compared the GCSE results of schools with similar test scores at 14. But Mr Blunkett decided at the weekend that the measure - first outlined by ministers in March - would have been unfair to many successful schools.

A number of schools where all the GCSE candidates achieved at least five good passes were relegated to the bottom two grades because outstanding test scores two years earlier had left little room for improvement. Government sources said Mr Blunkett felt the index was not sufficiently reliable and might discredit attempts to assess the value added by schools.

The change of heart delighted head teachers' leaders, who had pressed for the index to be dropped after hundreds of their members wrote to Mr Blunkett, complaining about their grades.

Invicta Grammar School, in Maidstone, Kent, for example, registered its best GCSE results but was to be placed in the penultimate grade. Every candidate had passed five GCSEs at grade C or above and almost half of the entries were marked as A or A*.

Susan Court, Invicta's head teacher, said: "By every sensible measure, our results were outstanding. But because the girls' test results were also good and we deliberately put them in for only nine subjects, rather than 11 or 12, this was not going to be good enough."

Brierton Comprehensive School in Hartlepool, also achieved its best results, registering a 58 per cent improvement only to be graded D. Stuart Priestly, the head teacher, said: "We had to keep telling the children that they were still fantastic and had worked incredibly hard. If they do introduce a progress measure, it will have to be far more refined than this one."

David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "The Government claimed this measure was going to identify schools which are coasting and denying their pupils the success they should be getting. What has happened to that claim now?"

The Government has promised to crack down on schools which are not doing as well as they should, given the abilities of their intake. Low grades in the index would have highlighted many such schools, but they will now not be identified in the tables. Instead, the full tables available to parents will show only schools in the top two categories.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, one of those pressing for the index to be abandoned, said: "Although we would have preferred total withdrawal of the measure, the fact that the Government has made such a significant change is an admission that the proposals were flawed."

Ceaseless efforts to secure cross-party unity and a strong female input into the Good Friday agreement have earned a mother of two the coveted UK Woman of Europe Award.

Bronagh Hinds, 48, who is based in Belfast, is being rewarded for her outstanding voluntary contributions towards helping the return of long-term peace in Northern Ireland and European integration.

Ms Hinds, founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, said: "I am very pleased it has come to someone in Northern Ireland, particularly this year when women were active in negotiations in the peace process. This is not just for me but for all the women.

"We have had a very high degree of community organisation and activism. Women may not have been involved in the political field in the past but they have been on the streets and in local organisations taking a leadership role there."

UN calls for changes to RUC

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

A UNITED Nations human rights committee called yesterday for the "reconstruction" of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the banning of plastic bullets, and the rapid closure of Castlereagh and other RUC interrogation centres.

The report, by the UN Committee Against Torture, comes just as the future of the RUC has become one of Northern Ireland's most contentious political issues. Chris Patten's commission on policing has embarked on a major province-wide consultation exercise, and is to publish its conclusions by next summer.

Sinn Fein seized on the report. Gerry Adams said it "condemned" the RUC like scores of others before it, and was "further evidence of the logic of Sinn Fein's demand that the RUC be disbanded".

But Ian Paisley Jnr, the Democratic Unionist Party's justice spokesman, said the UN had never once investigated human rights abuses by terrorists over the past 30 years, and questioned its authority to investigate the RUC. The RUC refused to comment until it had seen the document.

The report said there should be a "reconstruction of the RUC so that it more closely represented the cultural realities of Northern Ireland".

It said RUC officers should undergo "an extensive programme of re-education...directed at the objectives of the (Good Friday) peace accord and the best methods of modern police practices".

The Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice urged the government to implement all the report's recommendations immediately. "We would hope that a government that has placed human rights at the centre of its foreign policy would place human rights at the centre of its domestic policy," said a spokesman.

CAJ legal officer Paul Mageean called on the Government to immediately implement the recommendations of the UN report.

He said: "The Good Friday Agreement offers us an opportunity to build a new peaceful society based on respect for human rights. The Government should act on these recommendations without delay."

NEWS IN BRIEF

It's 'no' to EU tax harmony

GORDON BROWN has warned Germany that Britain would not accept any moves towards the harmonisation of taxes across the European Union. The Chancellor used his first meeting with his German counterpart, Oskar Lafontaine, to stress the differences between the two over the issue. His message is designed to calm fears that a manifesto signed by the EU's social democratic governments would provide a springboard for a push for tax harmonisation.

But the two did announce an Anglo-German working group to strive for economic reform and job creation.

Doctors warned

Doctors who place patients at risk will be "oamed and shamed", Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, told the Royal College of Physicians. Mr Milburn said that bad doctors should be sacked from the health service.

Savings fallen

The amount of mooey being saved by families and individuals has dropped by nearly a third since Labour came to power, figures published by the Tories revealed, and it could fall by a further 10 per ceot before the next election.

Rapist's suicide

John Steed, the M4 rapist, hanged himself in Full Sutton jail after hearing he would never be released, an inquest jury at Hull was told yesterday. Steed, 34, was serving life for killing a woman and raping three others. Verdict: suicide.

Mandelson trip

Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, yesterday cancelled a three-day trade promotion visit to Brazil "due to pressure of parliamentary business". He had been due to head a delegation of exporters. Media, page 43

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Regions get new cash injection from EU

From Charles Bremner
in Brussels

CORNWALL, West Wales and South Yorkshire are on track to receive hundreds of millions of pounds in new aid from the European Union, according to figures drawn up by the European Commission.

The regions are expected to qualify for the first time in the category of poorest areas of Europe, along with Merseyside, which already enjoys the so-called "Objective One" status. However, the new wealth statistics, to be published next week, confirm that Northern Ireland and Scotland's Highlands and Island will drop out of the most favoured category unless the EU agrees to the Government's pleading for special arrangements.

Britain, which is the EU's fourth poorest state in terms of wealth per capita, has been fighting to soften planned cuts in the £1.3 billion a year it receives from the EU's regional funds.

Two thirds of this goes to the Objective One regions for financing infrastructure and building new industry. The cuts are part of a big reform in regional aid, which was launched in 1988 to raise living standards in the poorer areas of Europe, in preparation for the membership of the former communist countries in the next decade.

Save MPs from trial by TV, says watchdog

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

MPs accused of breaking parliamentary rules should be spared trial by television, Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, the public standards watchdog, said yesterday.

He said the televised grilling of Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP at the centre of "cash for questions" allegations, had detracted from natural justice.

Lord Neill suggested that in any future complex case, a formal body should be set up "to ensure that justice would not only be done but be manifestly seen to be done".

His remarks appear to set his Committee on Standards in Public Life on a collision course with MPs on the Standards and Privileges Committee. Lord Neill is shortly to launch a review of the success of the anti-sleaze measures introduced by MPs in the wake of the cash for questions allegations. But his views, included in a Commons report yesterday, make clear that he is concerned about the way that the MPs handled the Hamilton case.

He said that Mr Hamilton should have been allowed to challenge evidence investigated by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, and to cross-examine witnesses.

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Fat lady's libel suit falls flat

Robin Young on the case of a hoary old joke brought before High Court

THE fat lady was denied her chance to sing in the High Court yesterday when the majestically proportioned soprano Jessye Norman lost her bid to sue for libel over a quip about her size. She claimed words used about her were "vulgar and undignified".

Classic CD magazine had related a story that, when she became trapped in swing doors on the way to a concert and was advised to turn sideways to release herself, she had replied: "Honey, I ain't got no sideways."

Miss Norman complained that the attribution to her of a remark she never made held her up to ridicule, mockery and contempt because it conformed to a "degrading racist stereotype of a person of African-American heritage".

Lord Justice Peter Gibson, in a ruling in the Court of Appeal yesterday, said that the words of which the diva complained could never convey the defamatory meanings that she was suggesting.

He commented ruefully: "I could have wished Miss Norman had told the hoary old joke contained in the anecdote — the subject of this libel action — as it would have shown that, in addition to possessing the remarkable vocal and dramatic talents which have made her world-famous as a distinguished opera singer, she had an engaging sense of humour. Unhappily, she has taken offence at the false attribution to her of the six words."

The judge was right about the hoariness of the joke. If *Times* readers care to flick through a 1900 volume of *Punch* they will be able to find the cartoon by L. Raven Hill which may be the joke in its original form. Raven Hill depicted a stout lady endeavouring to clamber into a horse-drawn omnibus. The caption ran: *Carrier*: "Try zideways, Mrs Jones, try zideways!" *Mrs Jones*: "'Lar' blee 'ee John, I ain't got no zideways!"

With all due respect, the judge may have done some small injustice in supposing that the stately and magnificent Miss Norman is entirely devoid of a sense of humour.

Another story often told of her and about which she has never sued (yet, at any rate) is that on one occasion she entered a recording studio and encountered the British singer, Rita Hunter, also a personality of generous proportions. Miss Norman is reported to have greeted her with the words: "Hi, skinny."

Miss Norman, 53, who lives in New York, had already tried unsuccessfully to sue *Classic CD* in the United States over their article, which was published in 1994. Her claim in this country was struck out under High Court rules that the words complained of did not bear the meanings she attributed to them.

> 'The article portrays her with a sense of artistic discrimination which is the very reverse of vulgar'

Lord Justice Hirst, in his ruling, said the three-page article in which the words complained of appeared was "extremely complimentary" on the whole, though it did say that it was "hard to envisage the grand, statuesque 49-year-old [Miss Norman] as the libidinous adolescent [Salome] stripping off the seven veils."

Miss Norman claimed that the article had caused serious injury to her personal and professional reputation and to her feelings. Her counsel, John Rampton, QC, told the appeal judges that the words could be defamatory if they exposed the plaintiff to ridicule.

Lord Justice Hirst had concluded that the "reasonable reader", considering the words in the context of the article as a whole, could not interpret them in the sense Miss Norman claimed, "which is in any event so anodyne a meaning as to be barely defamatory". He said: "The article as a whole portrays the plaintiff as a person of high standing and impeccable dignity, and with a sense of artistic discrimination and personal propriety which is the very reverse of vulgar."

Lord Justice Peter Gibson added that the article only gave the impression of poking "gentle fun" at Miss Norman's size, and pointed out that in the very next sentence it said: "She has lost a lot of weight since then."

That impression, the judge said, was entirely compatible with "the self-deprecating humour" Miss Norman displayed when she was quoted as commenting on the suitability of her playing the part of a heroine dying of consumption. Then she was reported to have said : "I simply don't look the part. They have to say I was run over by a car or something."

Miss Norman's appeal against the ruling that the claim should be struck out was dismissed.

The American soprano Jessye Norman, who, the magazine article admitted, has lost weight in recent years

The sound of music silenced by surgery

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

JULIE Andrews, the eternally sunny icon of musical theatre, may never sing in public again because she has failed to recover from an operation last year to remove growths from her vocal chords, her husband has disclosed.

Hers was the voice that rang out over the Austrian Tyrol in *The Sound of Music* and sustained a glittering career in the West End, on Broadway and in film. But now, "if you heard it, you'd weep", her husband, Blake Edwards, said. "I don't think she'll sing again. It's an absolute tragedy."

Andrews, 63, underwent the surgery to remove benign nodules in June last year during a gruelling Broadway run of *Victor/Victoria*, as the principal character in which she effectively played both the male and female leads. The run had been frequently interrupted by the sore throats and laryngitis that the operation was intended to cure.

Seventeen months on, the prognosis is gloomy. "The doctor who did the surgery said they don't know when it might heal." Andrews's spokesman, Gene Schwam, said yesterday.

Andrews: did not know her voice was in danger

"There's a 50-50 chance that it won't."

Mr Schwam said that the star of *Mary Poppins* and the original stage version of *My Fair Lady* was "very saddened" and might never have had the operation had she known she could lose her voice. "Julie has always considered herself a singer who acts, rather than an actor who sings," he said.

Andrews had reportedly been warned that scar tissue might form on her vocal chords, but chose surgery instead of her other option of six months' rest.

After 722 back-to-back performances of *Victor/Victoria*, which Edwards wrote for her 25 years ago, she refused to let her understudy take over. Instead, Liza Minelli, a friend and the star of the film version of *Cabaret*, stood in during the operation only to forget her lines, prompting a "sick-out" by her male co-star and ridicule in the press. Since then, Andrews has been resting mainly at her home in Gstaad, Switzerland.

A planned tour of *Victor/Victoria* has had to be cancelled. In the meantime its star has returned to work once, to record 700 spoken lines as the parrot Polynesia in a West End musical on the adventures of Dr Doolittle.

Brought up in Walton-on-Thames, Andrews was singing in *My Fair Lady* on Broadway by the time she was 19. She was deeply upset to lose the lead in the musical's film version to Audrey Hepburn, but won an Oscar nomination for *The Sound of Music*, the most successful filmed musical yet made.

Ex-PC who claimed for Viagra gets £350,000

A FORMER Irish policeman who sought compensation to buy the anti-impotence drug Viagra because he had been forced to retire after a beating was yesterday awarded £350,000 in damages.

The Dublin High Court was told that an unspecified section of the award against the Irish state to Philip Purcell, 45, related to the Viagra aspect of the case.

Mr Purcell said that he had suffered from erectile dysfunction as a result of post-traumatic stress caused by an attack on him by fans after a football match in Dublin four years ago. Ordered to retire last year, he had undergone medical treatment for his loss of libido, but did not believe he had been cured. He found that Viagra tablets, which cost £18 per dose, had proved less stressful. Mr Purcell, who was a Dublin-based member of the Irish police force's special detective unit, told the court that he intended to use the tablets in future and he considered he might need two or three tablets a week.

Mr Justice Declan Budd stressed that sexual problems were only one aspect of Mr Purcell's difficulties. He allowed £26,730 of the total damages for future medical treatment.

Judges cannot agree over lap dancers' offers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, and another senior judge cannot agree over exactly how they should regard the extra services offered by lap dancers after their public performances.

At issue is whether after-dance offers by the girls of sex for money should render club managers guilty of failing to provide good order.

Magistrates at Horseferry Road court in London have already decided it does not. But despite hearing intimate details of an undercover police missions to several lap-dancing clubs, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Collins failed to agree whether the magistrates were right or wrong.

The two judges said in the High Court that one of them took the view that the sex offers by the girls were sufficient to get the club bosses into legal hot water, the other took the contrary view.

As a result, the question of what lap dancers can offer without making their employers liable to prosecution for failing to keep order is now to be pondered again in the High Court — this time by three judges. This is to ensure that even if there is a disagreement, at least a majority decision can be reached.

The three London West End clubs at the centre of the row are the Gaslight Club in York Street, Chaplins in Swallow Street and the Crazy Horse in Regent Street.

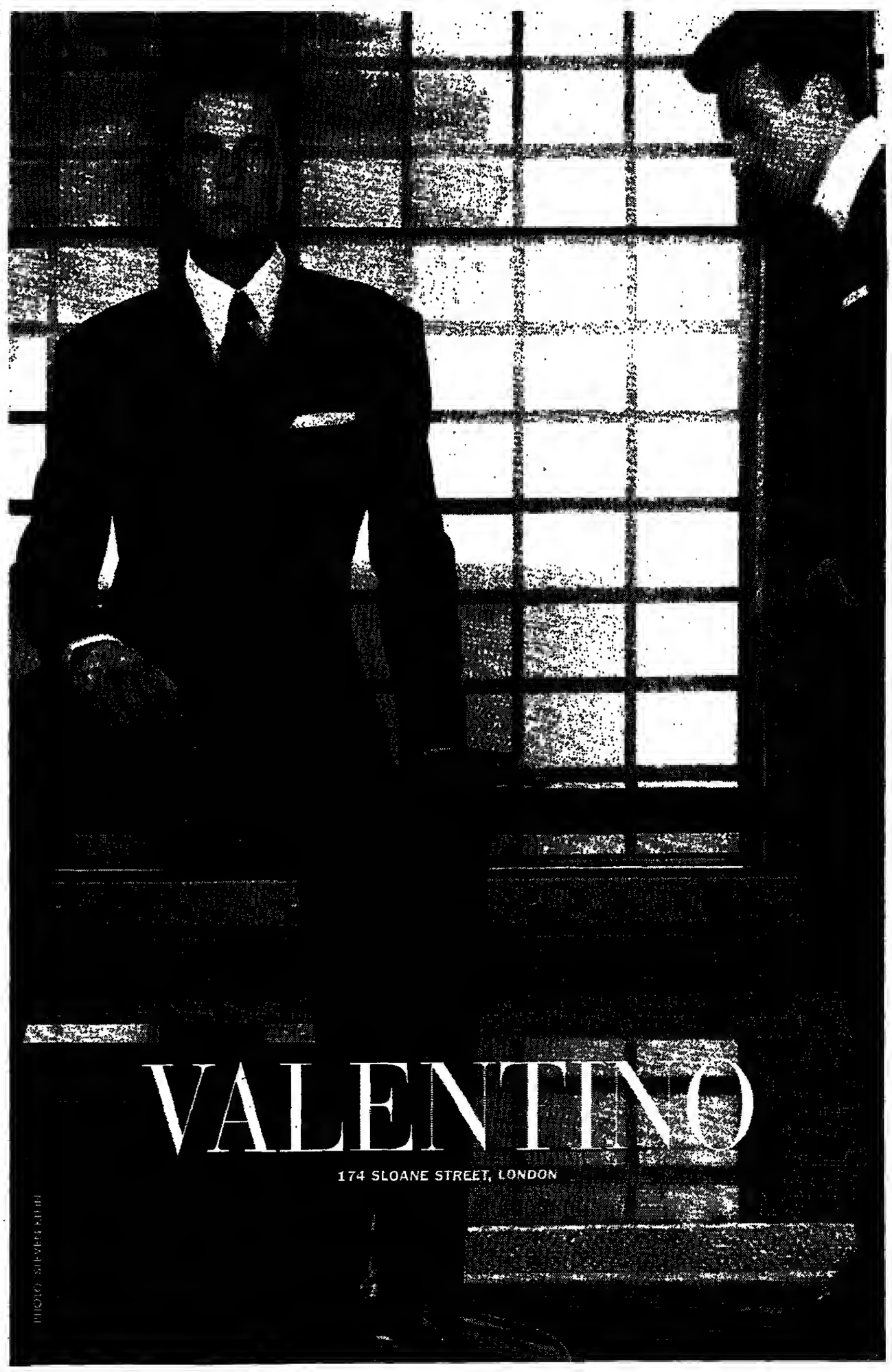
Lord Bingham and Mr Justice Collins were told what happened when plain clothes police officers visited the premises on covert missions.

They heard that dancers wearing bikini tops and G-strings, went into suggestive dance routines that included erotic contact with the officers and were then told that after dancing, the dancers made offers of sex.

After hearing of the routines the judges were satisfied that they amounted to "performances wholly or mainly comprised for sexual stimulation" and breached licensing rules governing places of public entertainment.

But they could not agree with each other on the magistrates' ruling that as the dancers were not overheard making the offers, they did not render the club owners guilty of failing to maintain good order.

A date for a further inquiry into the matter is to be fixed.



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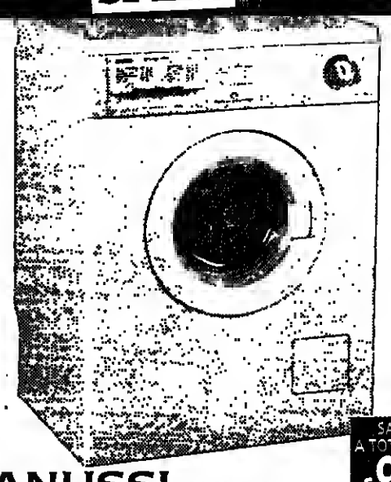

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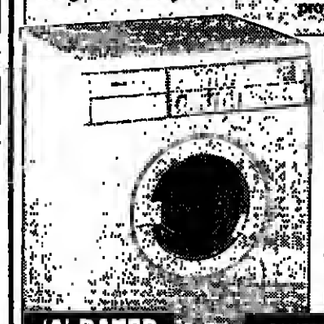

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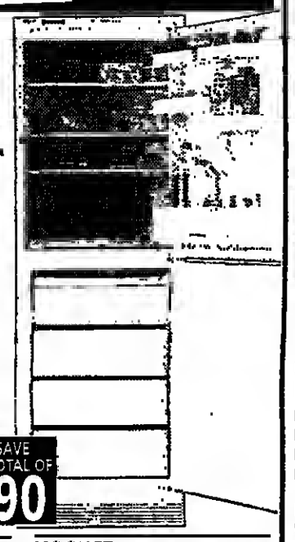

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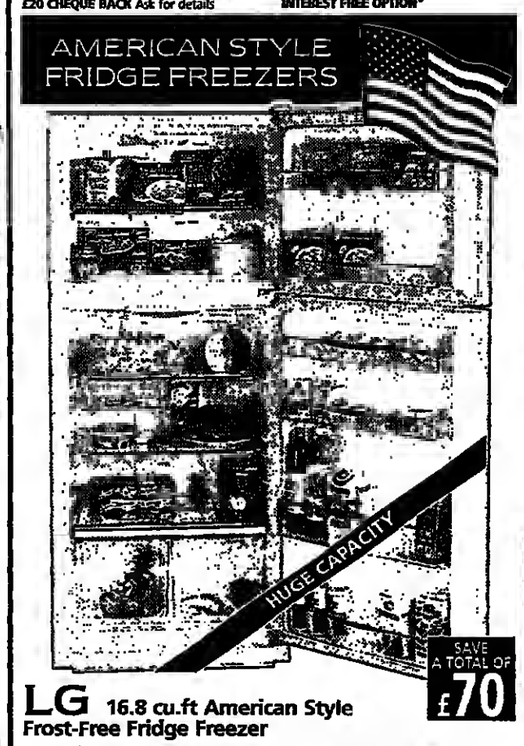

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Designer drug threatens lives of abusers

Police issue a nationwide warning over a new breed of narcotics, writes Stewart Tendler

POLICE issued a national warning to drug users yesterday to beware dealers selling two highly dangerous Ecstasy substitutes that can kill or leave them injured.

One of the drugs, "Flatliners", which is not yet banned under drug-dealing legislation, has already been linked to the deaths of two young people this year. The hallucinogenic drug is suspected of causing severe seizures.

Private Stephen Evans, 21, died in Plymouth in August after taking the drug among a cocktail of others.

The other victim was Rene Saunders, 22, a psychology student who died in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in July and had not taken any other drugs. Toxicologists at Birmingham City Hospital are now using the case to discover the true extent of the drug's potency.

The other drug at the centre of yesterday's warning is known as DOB or Golden Eagle on the streets and is reputed to be 33 times stronger than normal doses of Ecstasy.

According to doctors, DOB overdoses can cause psychiatric problems, panic, violent behaviour and even death. They may also induce spasms in the blood vessels of the limbs, leading to injury. Both the drugs sell on the streets and in clubs for about £5 a tablet.

The warning was issued by the National Criminal Intelligence Service. The appearance of Flatliners, chemically identified as 4-MTA or 4-methylthioamphetamine, is now also now being monitored across Europe under an international drugwatch scheme. The drug has also been found in The Netherlands.

It is relatively easy to make and was developed five years ago at Purdue University in Indiana in the United States as a possible replacement for Prozac or as an appetite suppressant. It was never tested on humans, but underground chemists spotted references to it in two scientific papers and then made it.

Yesterday Professor David Nicholls, who developed the drug, said it was only intended to be used in doses of two or three milligrams and not the tablets of 100 milligrams or more which he believed have turned up on the black market.

Details of DOB can be found on the Internet and another drug similar to Flatliners is also mentioned there by underground chemists.

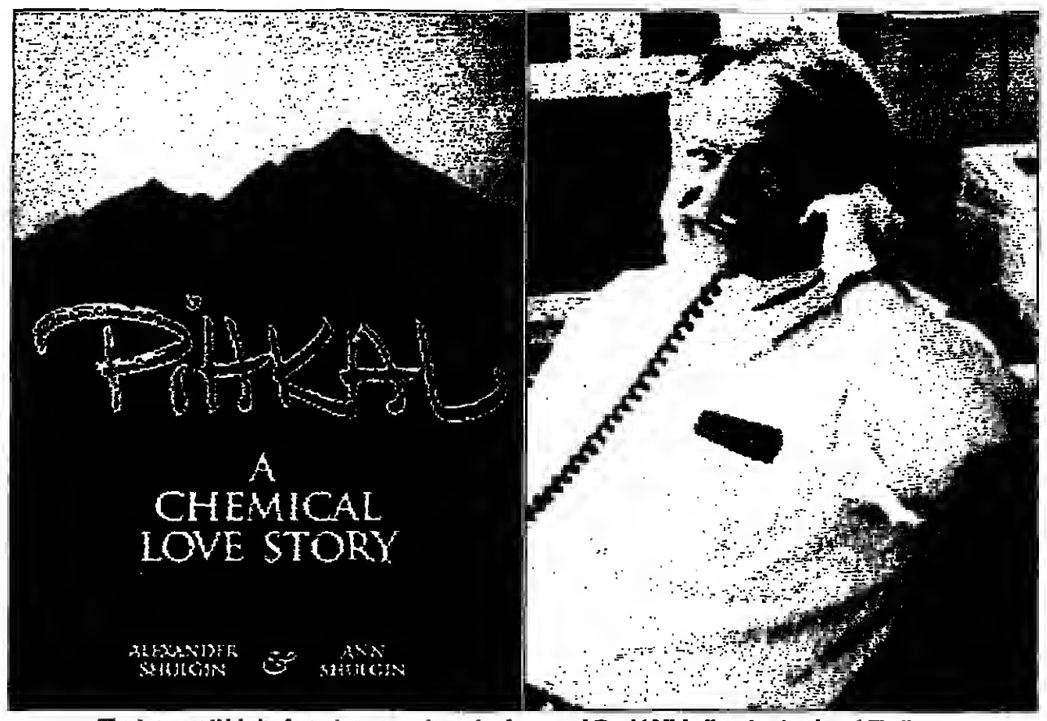
Issuing the warning yesterday, Les Fiander, of the NCIS drugs unit, said: "The market has become greedy both for new drugs and the vast sums of money that can be made from these drugs. They can make a lot of money out of very little. You only need three milligrams of DOB against about 80 milligrams per dose of Ecstasy." He said that the drugs were sold as another form of Ecstasy to young users. So far police have made about 20 seizures of Flatliners, which is controlled under the Medicines Act, but has yet to be listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

DOB or 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine dates from the 1960s and has sometimes been sold as LSD. Mr Fiander said police have made ten seizures in recent years but the British market may face a new flood of drugs.

Police in France have seized 400,000 doses recently that may have been destined for this country.

Mr Fiander said police now believe that criminals once involved in cocaine smuggling or armed robbery are moving into drug production either in Britain or in Holland.

Drug workers said yesterday they have seen little evidence of Flatliners yet although the name has been used in the past by dealers to refer to other drugs. Details of the manufacture and effects of taking DOB can be found on the Internet in "Pihkal, A Chemical Lovestory" which was co-authored by Alexander Shulgin, an American chemist celebrated in the drugs world. The entry includes detailed descriptions of taking the drug, tests on mice and there is also a health warning.



The Internet Website featuring news about the drugs and David Nicholls, who developed Flatliners

The evils of tampering with potions

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

REPUTABLE pharmacologists improve a basic medication so that over the years minor modifications refine it and extend its range.

Just as latter-day penicillins are much more effective than the original preparation, so have pharmacologists adjusted the formula of the basic drugs misused for recreation so as to change their actions. In doing so they may have, wittingly or unwittingly, given drug dealers the opportunity to increase their market by offering dangerous drugs with additional effects.

The pharmacologists have been busy with the amphetamines and have thereby provided drug dealers with an enhanced income, but at the cost of safety. Simple amphetamines have their dangers: by attaching to the amphetamine molecule another chemical structure, they have created Ecstasy, a more complex preparation. Ecstasy is short-acting, produces euphoria, a sense of emotional closeness and intimacy. It puts up the blood pressure and the heart rate. Pharmacologists have now added several molecular groups and attached them to the original amphetamine.

The new "designer drugs" have the action of amphetamines and Ecstasy, plus the mind-bending effects of LSD. Overall, DOB and 4-MTA are much more like LSD than amphetamines or Ecstasy in their actions. They are hallucinatory and long-acting: the trip may last for 24 hours or more, the blood pressure is increased, there is peripheral vaso-spasm — the blood vessels constrict — so that the user may also suffer gangrene.

Professor David Nichols, of Purdue University, Indiana, said: "Normally the user has to wait for the drug to wear off. If they become very anxious, one of the benzodiazepines will reduce the stress. Gangrene has been reported from the misuse of DOB."

The hallucinatory LSD effect may be particularly dangerous for those people who have a susceptibility, whether from hereditary or environmental causes, to the schizophrenic group of illnesses. DOB and its related compounds may, like LSD, precipitate an acute psychotic breakdown which can extend into schizophrenia.

Dedicated clubber mixed his poisons

By Simon de Bruxelles

A SOLDIER in the Devon and Dorset regiment was one of the first victims of Flatliners, a drug so new that it has yet to be banned by the Home Office.

Private Steven Evans, 21, was an inveterate clubber who regularly binged on a cocktail of different drugs. An inquest in Plymouth was told last week that Evans had been clubbing in Torquay the night before his death last August. He and a group of friends had each taken several pills, including the Flatliners, before their night of partying. During the evening Evans topped up the drugs that he had already taken by snorting cocaine.

His girlfriend, Keri Gunningham, told the inquest that he was "loved up" at the nightclub. But as night moved into early morning she said he had become "a little bit unstable on his feet". The group had returned to Plymouth and carried on taking drugs throughout the afternoon and next day.

Miss Gunningham was in tears as she described how her boyfriend's behaviour became increasingly erratic as the drugs took effect. He ran himself a bath but was so unsteady he could not get into it. He then fell on the bed where his girlfriend tried to cover him with a quilt while his arms and legs flailed around. His bottom lip turned purple and she and his best friend called an ambulance. He died on the way to hospital.

The Coroner, Nigel Meadows, said that tests on Evans' body had found traces of alcohol, opiates, cocaine, methadone, cannabis, two types of ecstasy and the new drug 4-Methylthioamphetamine or 4-MTA. He recorded a verdict of death by non-dependent abusive drugs and said: "Anyone who takes drugs like this is simply playing Russian roulette with their lives."

Jail for air force man who spied on women

By Shirley English

AN RAF photographer who secretly filmed female colleagues in their underwear was jailed for six months and dismissed the service yesterday.

Lee Carter, 29, a senior aircraftman who was also base photographer at RAF Lossiemouth, recorded seven women undressing in the changing room of his studio over 14 months.

Yesterday, after a three-day court martial, he was found guilty of disgraceful conduct of an indecent nature.

Sentencing him, Judge Advocate Peter Gribble, said: "You gained the trust of a number of females and then you abused them. You knew full well that none of them would have consented to the videos. But you repeatedly set up a camera and filmed them, using the film later for your own sexual gratification."

Carter was the official photographer at the base in Moray and invited female colleagues and wives of servicemen to pose for portraits. He secretly installed a video camera in the changing room to record them getting changed. His crime came to light when colleagues discovered the video tapes in his locker.

Corporal Scott Fraser, of the RAF police, said after the hearing: "The women are very angry and bitter. They were disgusted by what happened."

Andrew McCartan, for the defence, said that Carter had expressed remorse for the offences, which he put down to weakness.

Carter was jailed for six months, to be served in a civilian prison. His defence agent said that he would appeal.

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And finally: the end of a golden age of TV news

Peter Barnard on the ghosts of News at Ten past

BONG! Millions hurt by runaway news juggernaut. Bong! Ghost of Reginald Bosanquet stalks ITN studios. Bong! Prime Minister snubbed by television chiefs. Bong! Hollywood moguls celebrate sale of more old films to British television.

News at Ten finally made *News at Ten* last night with the announcement of its own death. The Independent Television Commission's agreement to let the programme die means that the unspeakable has become the inevitable in short order.

As recently as October 1995, the ITC threatened to fine the ITV companies, joint owners of Independent Televison News, when they wanted to move *News at Ten* back by 15 minutes one night to show an extended episode of *Cracker*. Now the main ITV news bulletin is to be brought forward, permanently, by three hours and 30 minutes.

At the time of the *Cracker* row, over which ITV backed down, the companies insisted that the plan was a one-off, and that there was oo hidden agenda to shift *News at Ten* in the longer term. That imprecise timespan appears to have expired yesterday.

The switch to a 6.30pm main bulletin reflects changing times in television. Tony Blair's opposition to the move was a strangely dated response from a modernist. Television news is a different animal now to the one that stalked the (altogether less dangerous) ratings jungle when *News at Ten* was born.

ITV, faced with a more populist BBC and the threat of satellite television, oeeds peak viewing time for uninterrupted drama and films. Fictional drama builds audiences, but real-life drama rarely does.

However television news develops in future, it is unlikely to generate anything as radical as that which *News at Ten* brought to the medium 31 years ago. The programme was the principal showcase for the talents of ITN, which was launched from offices in Kingsway, London, in 1955 with an editorial staff of 19 led by the brilliant Aidan Crawley, a wartime bomber pilot and former MP.

News at Ten brought to Britain the notion of the news presenter as a personality. A succession of highly paid presenters, including Alastair Burnet, Bosanquet, Sandy Gall and the present frontman, Trevor McDonald, became public figures. Bosanquet, who seemed to have been poored into his suit, was irreverent, his arching eyebrows providing their own commentary on the news. Burnet delivered the news in clipped, accentless English; Gall's all-weather face implied that he had walked all the way from Afghanistan to read the news (which was sometimes close to the truth); McDonald was the first black news presenter on ITV and, in the opinion of many, the best of the lot.

From the start, *News at Ten* had a breezy style that was in marked contrast to the BBC's po-faced approach. Sir Robin Day, one of ITN's early successes, said that ITN blew away taboos and knocked the BBC for six in the process.

And finally ... the end of *News at Ten* means the end of ooe of television's great set-piece occasions. No more will Michael Brunson, ITN's political editor, rush from the Commons to broadcast, live, the outcome of a crucial 10pm division. That produced real excitement, most recently when European legislation was steamrollered through John Major's wafer-thin majority.

Labour's 179-seat majority has squeezed the drama out of such occasions. ITV has chosen its moment.

News as it happened: Alastair Burnet, left, effected a clipped delivery, while Reginald Bosanquet was irreverent. Below: the presenters Alistair Stewart, left, Peter Sissons, Andrew Gardner and the "all-weather" Sandy Gall

Panel of ten that made the decision

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE decision to let ITV axe *News at Ten* was made by a ten-strong panel, whose members included a Millennium Commissioner and a former Danish television executive.

The panel, which also included a former Director-General of the BBC, considered the issue for many months but the decision was not unanimous. Three members, as yet unidentified, voted for the 31-year-old programme to stay at 10pm.

The panel members, all members of the Independent Television Commission, were:

Sir Robio Biggam, the chairman. Also chairman of Fairey Group and a non-executive director of British Aerospace, British Energy and Redland.

Earl of Dalkeith, deputy chairman. Member of Millennium Commission. Previously on boards of Border Television, West Sound Radio and Mid-Anglia Radio.

Michael Shea, former press secretary to the Queen. Member of ITC for Scotland.

Alastair Balls, former chief executive of Tyne and Wear Development Corporation. Vice-chairman of Council of University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

John Benyon, member of British Library Advisory Council. Former principal of King's College London and senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor of University of Surrey.

Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General of BBC. Non-executive director of Nynex Cablecommunications. Governor of Birkbeck College and Brighton University.

Jude Goffe, venture capital adviser, interests in telecommunications, property and textiles.

Winston Roddick, QC, a Recorder since 1987.

Maria Moloney, member of ITC for Northern Ireland, and member of Province's Industrial Development Board.

John Ranelagh, European media consultant, writer and current affairs producer. Former secretary to the board of Channel 4 and former director of programmes for TV2 Denmark.

Films and comedy take its place

Carol Midgley on ITV 'fantasy schedule'

NEWS at Ten will find itself usurped by a mixture of adult comedy, documentaries and big-screen films that is designed to persuade advertisers to invest in a reinvented ITV.

David Liddiment, ITV's Director of Programmes, and Richard Eyre, its chief executive, have drawn up a "fantasy" schedule, which, they say, will enable ITV to deliver diversity to a modern audience and compete with its rivals on a "level playing field".

Despite the popular theory, the slot will not be filled mostly with films. Althoogb ITV disliked having lo cut its feature films in half to broadcast *News at Ten* in the past, it is expected that only about ten big-screen films a year will be sbown across it. There are, however, plans to put two factual programmes in the slot — a series called *Real Life* overseen by the former *Modern Times* editor Stephen Lambert and a new programme based on the American *60 Minutes*, which will be presented by Trevor McDonald and Martin Bashir, the former BBC journalist who interviewed the Princess of Wales for *Panorama*.

These will probably be screened on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mondays will probably be reserved for factual entertainment, Tuesdays for comedy and Fridays often for a big movie.

Leading article, page 25
Media, page 43

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10pm: a comedy drama, such as *Cold Feet*.
11pm: news.
WEDNESDAY, 8pm: a drama, for instance *Hornblower*.
10pm: documentary.
11pm: news.
THURSDAY, 9pm: a drama, such as *McCallum*.
10pm: a *60 Minutes*-style news magazine programme, to be presented by Trevor McDonald.
11pm: news.
FRIDAY, 9pm: a feature film, such as *Goldeneye*.
11pm: news.

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TOMORROW in the times

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IAN WRIGHT Shoots his mouth off

What HELEN MIRREN wants for Christmas

The Saturday Times ONLY 50P

Tax haven isles urged to fight financial crime

Home Office wants Man and Jersey to tackle tax evasion and fraud, reports Richard Ford

SPECIALIST units including police, customs officers and tax inspectors should be set up on the Channel Islands and Isle of Man to tackle financial crime, says a Home Office report published yesterday.

The islands were also urged to increase the manpower devoted to detecting and investigaóng tax evasion, financial fraud and money laundering as part of measures intended to strengthen financial regulation on the islands, where institutions hold assets of up to £350 billion.

The report found many in the financial services industry wanted a national fraud and financial crime squad to tackle money-laundering and other criminal activities in the business world. Lord Williams of Mostyn, a Home Office minister, is to chair meetings starting in January to develop an action plan to implement the proposals. It is hoped that most will be in place by 2000. The 175-page report outlines measures to curb abuses and is aimed at providing greater protection for investors.

Andrew Edwards, a retired Treasury official who carried out a ten-month investigaóon into financial regulation in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, said a number of concerns had been expressed. They included a perceived absence of redress for customers in dispute with institutions on the islands, the continuation of business of people with questionable track records, fears that too little was known about many firms and fears that activities were depriving other countries of tax revenues.

Although he said existing rules "mostly work well" and he believed most businesses on the islands were perfectly legal, Mr Edwards said: "The battle against financial crime, including tax evasion and money-laundering, is not being convincingly won."

His report called for the establishment of a financial services ombudsman to deal with customer disputes and a special financial crime-stoppers telephone line for the public.

The report recommended strengthening existing regulaóons for the 90,000 companies registered on the islands. All companies run in the islands, but incorporated elsewhere, should be registered, but the report stops short of recommending that limited companies should file audited accounts.

Mr Edwards called for companies that register in the islands to disclose the beneficial ownership in confidence to the authorities. The report proposes measures to tackle the so-called "Sark Lark", where a population of 575 held more than 15,000 directorships. It called for the licensing and registraóon of directors and anyone holding directorships in five trading companies or 30 asset-holding firms would be expected to consult a financial supervision commission.

Mr Edwards recommended that island politicians should not sit on bodies regulating the financial services industry. In Jersey the priority was for the authorities to get to the position where they co-operated fully with other countries in pursuit of financial crime and money-laundering, in Guernsey to deal with nominee directors, as occurs in Sark, and on the Isle of Man to increase regulation.

Representatives of the islands broadly welcomed the report but made clear that not all recommendations would be implemented.

Winds of change, page 33

JOHN FURLONG

One of the team of abseilers at work on the giant image on Wednesday, 24 hours before the fatal accident

Tragedy overshadows art debut

A WORKMAN died yesterday after falling from a 14-storey hospital car park as he helped to secure a giant art exhibit (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The man was working on a photographic blow-up of an image of a woman and young boy with their hands raised in greeting, which extends the full height of the 170ft car park at Leeds General Infirmary.

The picture had been formally unveiled the previous day as part of Photo 98, a year-long celebration of the medium across the region.

The man, whose identity was not being disclosed until relatives who live outside the area had been informed, was working about 30ft above the ground.

It was not clear whether he had been working on scaffolding or using a abseiling equipment. He fell on to a concrete roadway and is understood to have suffered multiple injuries. Hospital staff were on the scene almost instantly and took him to the casualty unit. He died five hours later.

Andrew Bannister, a spokesman for the infirmary, said last night: "We are not sure what he was doing at the time he fell. We know the banner had already been put up so we think the man was securing it to the car park.

"He worked for an outside contractor that was installing the photographic image above the car park entrance as part of an arts project funded by a charitable organisation.

"Details of the incident are being investigated by the police and the Health and Safety Executive. We at the hospital are all shocked by this incident and our thoughts are with the man's family."

A spokesman at the headquarters of Photo 98, in Huddersfield, declined to comment.

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Flash flood is blamed for honeymoon deaths

By Paul Wilkinson

A HONEYMOON couple were swept to their deaths by a flash flood which raised the level of a river by 5ft in seconds, an inquest was told yesterday.

Lynn and Barry Collett died last August on the first full day of their stay in a holiday cottage at the village of Appletreewick beside the River Wharfe in the Yorkshire Dales.

The inquest in Skipton, North Yorkshire, heard evidence that overnight raid at the source of the river high in the Dales had produced a sudden surge of water. A hydrology expert from the Environment Agency said that gauges down river recorded a jump in water flow from four cubic metres per second to 50.

The body of Mrs Collett, 25, a student nurse from Long Sutton, Hampshire, was found in the river six days later, not far from Bolton Abbey, where they were last seen alive. Her husband, a 29-year-old computer operator from Camberley, Surrey, was found two months later, 12 miles downstream. Both had drowned.

Jeremy Cave, the Craven Coroner, recorded an open verdict on the couple because no one had witnessed them go into the river. However there was no suggestion of foul play or suicide, he said. "It seems most probable, particularly bearing in mind what I have heard about the rapidity in the rise of the river level, that they were simply caught out and this was a tragic accident."

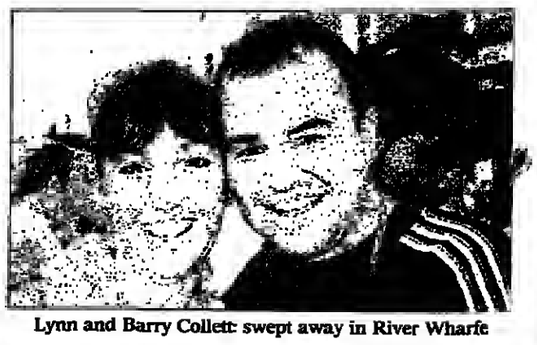
Mike Law, the leader of a hydrology team with the Environment Agency, said that the geography of the course of the River Wharfe meant that rainwater falling upstream would be bottled up in the narrow watercourses and arrive down river in a sudden surge.

The couple had stayed overnight in the hotel where they had held their wedding reception and driven up to Yorkshire the next day, Sunday, August 16. They had kept the location a secret from their families. The next morning they had gone out for their fateful walk.

Mr Law told the hearing that although the Sunday had been fine and Monday was dry, there had been a heavy downpour at the head of the river in the early hours.

Keith Watson, an angler from Ilkley, West Yorkshire, was fishing the Wharfe near Bolton Abbey with a friend on the day the Colletts vanished. He said: "Conditions changed rapidly. The river had become unfishable in less than a minute, a matter of seconds. It was in heavy spate, the water was really tumbling down. It was heavily discoloured, a deep peaty colour and came right to the top of the bank.

Charles Hoyle, a river bailiff, said that the rise had surprised him. "It rose by about 5ft in a minute or less," he said. He had seen something similar on half-a-dozen occasions during the six seasons he had worked on the river.



Lynn and Barry Collett: swept away in River Wharfe

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Wounded Knee shirt is going home to the Sioux

Museums fear flood of repatriation claims after landmark decision in Glasgow, reports Shirley English

A SACRED shirt worn by an American Indian warrior thought to have died at the massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890 is to be returned to the Lakota Sioux.

In what could turn out to be a landmark decision, Glasgow City Council agreed yesterday to hand back the bloodied, beige calico tunic, adorned with eagle and owl feathers and punctured with bullet holes, to the Lakota Indians in South Dakota.

The ghost dance shirt was given to the city in January 1892 by a translator working with Buffalo Bill Cody's travelling Wild West Show, which was wintering in Glasgow that year. Since then it has been on display in a glass case at Kelvingrove Museum in the city.

Museums across Britain are packed with cultural and religious artefacts collected from around the world and, in the past, claims for their return have been considered in private and objects returned with minimum publicity. But Glasgow's decision to return the ghost dance shirt, however, was debated in public for the first time and, it is feared, could open the floodgates to other claims.

Maurice Davies, deputy director of the Museums Association, said: "Some museums, particularly high-profile places like the British Museum, are very concerned. The number of repatriation requests is growing."

Research carried out last year by the association revealed 17 similar repatriation claims, although privately it is thought the figure is much higher.

The ghost dance shirt is believed to have been taken from a dead body after Wounded Knee as part of the gruesome souvenir trade that followed the massacre, which ended the resistance of Native Americans to white colonisers. The Glasgow shirt is the only one outside America.

Marcella Le Beau: she thanked Glasgow.

Yesterday Marcella Le Beau, or Free Rainbow Woman, who led the delegation from the Wounded Knee Survivors Association, offered an emotional thank-you to the people of Glasgow.

"It's like a great thanksgiving and I want to cry. I thank you very, very much," she said.

Mrs Le Beau, 75, a direct descendant of Rain In the Face, who claimed to have killed Colonel Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876, said a spiritual ceremony called Wiping of the Tears would be held to mark the shirt's return, which is likely to happen next spring. Glasgow City Council will now have to apply for an export licence.

The request to return the ghost dance shirt was first made six years ago, when it was spotted in a Glasgow exhibition by an American lawyer, John Earl, who was touring Scotland.

Initially the claim was rejected and then, in 1995, a delegation of Lakota Sioux arrived in Glasgow to negotiate for the return of the shirt, which they believe is sacred.

The ghost dance shirt was part of a religion that swept the Sioux nation in the 1880s. The warriors who wore it believed they could summon the spirit of their ancestors and would be invincible against the white man's bullet.

More than 250 men, women and children, travelling under a white flag, were shot by the Seventh Cavalry at Wounded Knee in December 1890. Their frozen bodies were stripped and thrown into mass graves.

The shirt that arrived in Glasgow 13 months later will form part of an exhibition in a museum to be built near Wounded Knee. Until then it will be displayed at the Cultural Heritage Centre at Pierre, South Dakota. It has been agreed that it will be lent back to Glasgow for exhibitions, although the city has been given a replica hand-stitched by Mrs Le Beau.

Mark O'Neill, head of Glasgow's curatorial services, defended the "dignified and honourable" role of museums in exhibiting objects. He said that no precedent had been set and that all future claims would be decided on their own merits.

"A significant number of museums will feel threatened by this and will feel it opens the floodgates. However, all museums in Britain have legal ownership of their artefacts and it is up to them whether they return them," he said.

The Lakota shirt, thought to have been stripped from a body after Wounded Knee

Iron Age Britons were milk men

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

FRAGMENTS of pottery from an Iron Age site in Northamptonshire have provided the first hard evidence that early Britons were dairy farmers.

Cattle and goats were domesticated around 7000 BC, and pictorial and written records from the Sahara to Mesopotamia show that dairy farming began there between 4000 BC and 2900 BC. Scientific evidence of dairying in prehistoric Britain had been less clear-cut until Richard Evershed and Stephanie Dudd, of the University of Bristol, found the "signature" of milk on pieces of pottery from an Iron Age site at Stanwick, which may be up to 3000 years old.

While milk contains a different mixture of fatty acids from body fat, the differences between the two become less distinguishable over time. The two chemists, writing in *Science*, said that they developed a new method of distinguishing between them by comparing proportions of the isotope carbon-13.

"Animals produce body fat and milk in different ways," Dr Evershed said. "When an animal is just grazing, it turns carbohydrates from fodder into body fat. When it is lactating it uses another route in which fatty acids from grass go directly into the milk."

The carbohydrates and fatty acids in grass contain slightly different proportions of carbon-13. The same difference was detectable, they found, between body fat and milk fat, meaning that traces of milk fat can be detected in ancient pots from the amount of carbon-13 in the residues.

Dr Evershed now plans to use the method, with the support of English Heritage and the Natural Environment Research Council, to investigate the significance of dairy farming in prehistoric Britain.

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World takes one small step to stars

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE first piece of the £13 billion international space station will be lifted into orbit early today from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, and an enterprise long in the making will finally be under way.

Built by a Russian company, and launched by a Russian rocket, the 24-ton Zarya (Sunrise) was paid for by the United States. The module will provide propulsion, power and communications for the construction of the station.

"After years of discussing, planning and replanning, we are about to launch hardware," said Gretchen McClain, deputy associate administrator for the new station. Aleksandr Krasnov, of the Russian space agency's manned flight department, admitted he would be touching wood. So will the space agencies of more than a dozen other countries.

The Zarya cargo module, a $200 million canister more than 41ft long and 13ft in diameter, will be a year late into orbit, largely as a result of Russia's economic problems. It will be followed by Unity, an American-built linking module to be launched aboard the space shuttle in December.

Then will come the service module, a Russian-built component and the main reason for the delay in starting assembly. To ensure that the service module will be ready for launch by the middle of next year, the US has been forced to bail out the Russians again.

If all goes well — and few but the most incurably optimistic expect it to — the station would be complete in 2004, after 34 shuttle missions, nine unmanned rocket launches and 60 Russian launches carrying general supplies. Assembly of the 400-ton station will involve bolting together almost 100 components in more than 1,700 hours of space walks — twice as much as the accumulated total by Russian and American astronauts in the first 37 years of space flight.

Statistically, there is every chance that launch failures or slip-ups in space will set back the timetable. The loss of one of the big truss segments that make up the station's backbone would be a particular problem. Calculations suggest that the chances of every mission carrying an important component going perfectly are less than those of flipping a coin seven times and coming up with seven heads.

What nobody yet knows is whether the space station will capture the imagination, now that it is finally getting under way. Nasa, fresh from the success of the John Glenn mission, hopes so. "Our challenge is to maintain this level of public enthusiasm," says Joe Rothenberg, head of Nasa's spaceflight office. "If the public turns against us, Congress will turn even faster."

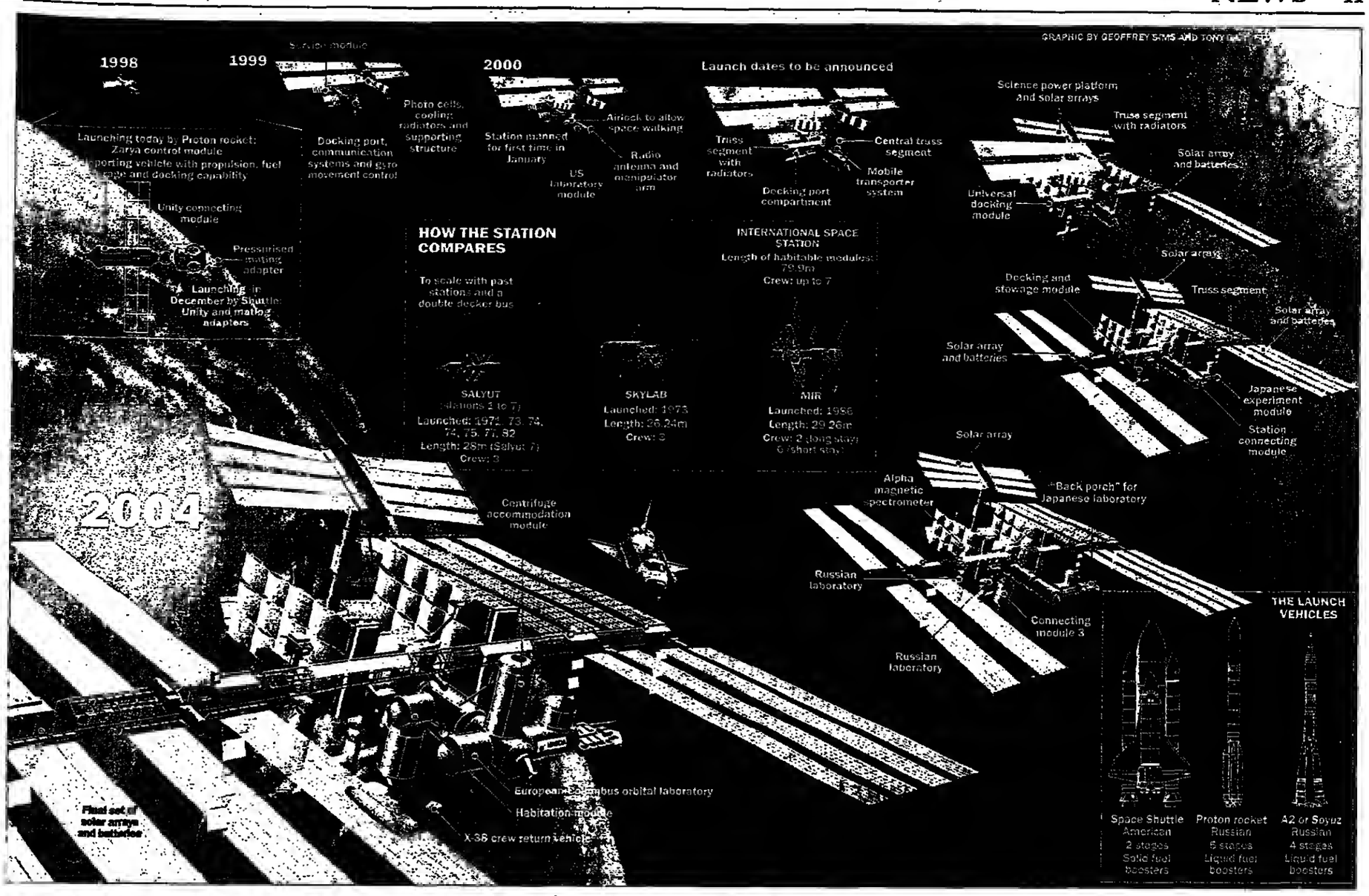
Seasoned observers such as John Pike, space policy director of the Federation of American Scientists, suggest that watching the station being built may have some of the fascination of peeking through building site hoardings. "My conjecture is that building the space station is going to be more interesting than watching the shuttle going round in circles," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It has a plot line, a beginning, middle and end."

Britain has made virtually no contribution to the programme so far, but the door was opened recently by Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister. He expressed an interest in having a British astronaut on the station. To achieve that, Britain would need to make a major contribution, perhaps by providing special motors designed to stop the station drifting back to Earth.

Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut who flew on Mir and is now deputy director of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, says that the space station will be the first stage in "a progressive exodus" of human beings from Earth.

The next stage after that would be Mars, then mining the asteroid belt and establishing outposts in the outer solar system, before a starship could leave for other stars.

"That will happen," Mr Foale said. "And without the space station we will never do the international things we need to do to go to Mars by way of the Moon and then out to the asteroid belt."



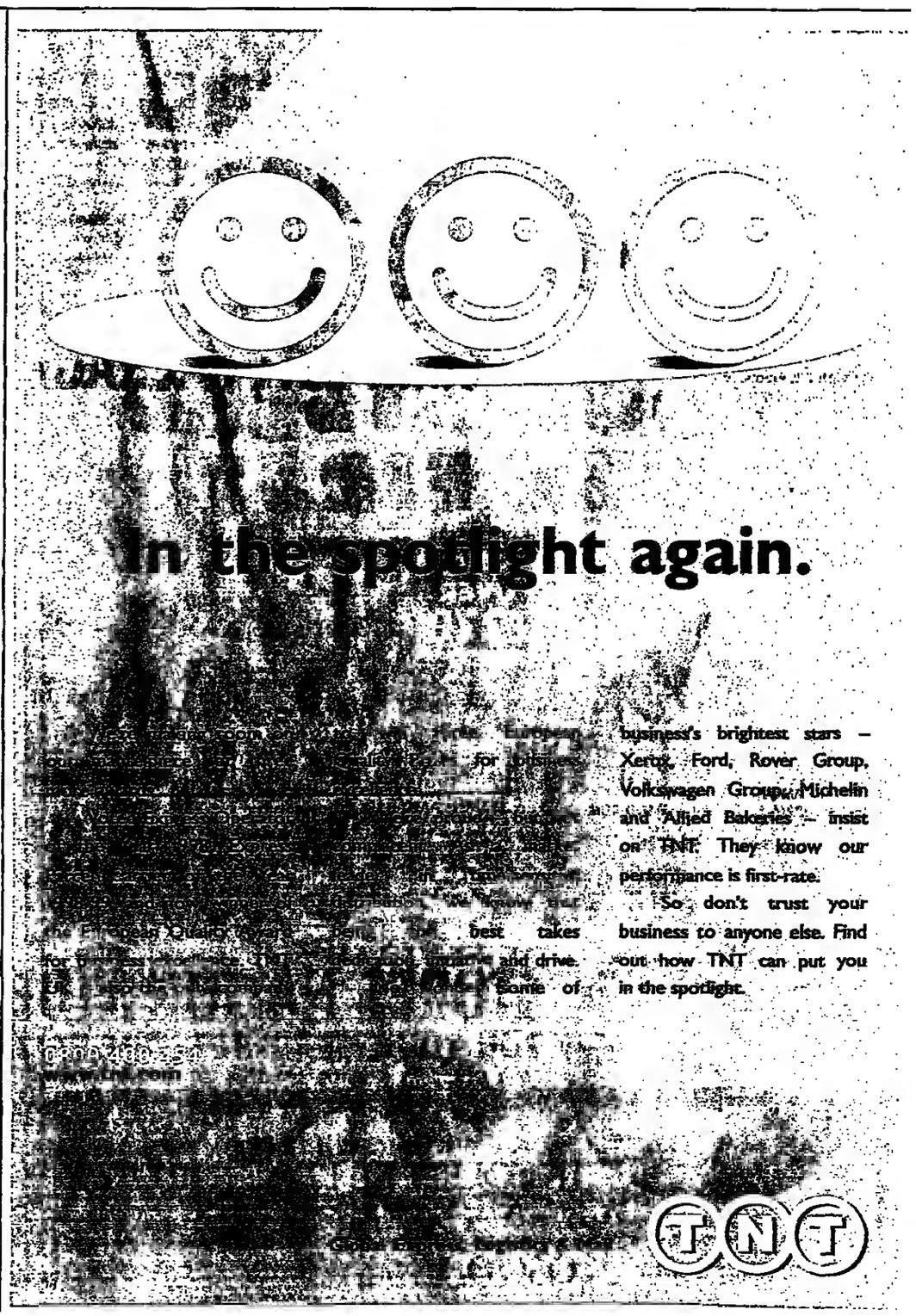
British drive may win through

BRITAIN decided more than a decade ago that manned space flight was too expensive and its contribution to the space station matches that view (Nigel Hawkes writes). But things may be about to change.

When the British-born astronaut Michael Foale visited Britain recently, he brought a list of technologies that Nasa wants and Britain might be able to provide.

One example is ion propulsion engines — low-powered devices that might be used to keep the station from drifting out of position. The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) has been working on them for more that 20 years and, with Matra-Marconi, is devising units for installation on a European Space Agency satellite.

If Britain did become involved with the space station, it would create the possibility of putting a British astronaut on board. Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, said: "If the right project comes, we'll go for it. I wouldn't say it's absolutely top-priority, but there is a real chance it might happen." Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, who was trained by the Russians and visited Mir in 1991, said: "I think it's right and very timely that we should have a proper British astronaut now."



Tories refuse to co-operate over Euro elections

Hardline stance leaves peers in fear of retribution, write **James Landale** and **Philip Webster**

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday substantially raised the stakes in the confrontation between the Commons and the Lords by refusing to co-operate with the Government over the defeated European Elections Bill when it is reintroduced.

The Tory leader's hardline stance surprised and delighted most Conservative MPs, but worried some Tory peers who felt he was going too far.

But it meant that the chances of the Bill becoming law in time for next June's elections were again diminished despite signs after its loss on Wednesday that the Conservatives would allow it fair wind when it comes back in the new session of Parliament next Tuesday. Mr Hague appeared to have overruled the apparently conciliatory line taken by Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, in the immediate aftermath of the result.

Tory backbench peers expressed amazement at Mr Hague's stance and gave warning that he might not be able to rely on them to carry on the fight. "It is completely daft," one said. "We should quit while we are ahead."

Others accused the Shadow Cabinet of using the Lords "to do their dirty work in the trenches", in the full knowledge that hereditary peers would be blamed. "They seem to be quite prepared to shed a little blood down here," one said. Traditionally government Bills that have been defeated by the Lords swiftly become law in the subsequent session of Parliament.

But the Government has set a deadline of mid-January for the Bill to go through, arguing that it will need the interval between then and June to train electoral office staff.

Mr Hague's refusal to budge overshadowed the disclosure yesterday of a clash between Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown over the Government's attitude the previous day. It emerged that Mr Ashdown telephoned Mr Blair to warn him that co-operation between the two parties was at risk because of the Government's apparent readiness to ditch the Bill.

He is believed to have told Mr Blair that it would be a "breach of faith" if the Bill was not pushed through. His intervention explained the Government's change of tone after the Lords defeat when Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Lords leader, announced that the Government would be using the Parliament Acts to try to force it through.

Mr Hague, after consulting close colleagues and advisers yesterday morning, said he would not "co-operate or acquiesce in any way" with the plan to introduce the "undemocratic" closed list system. Ministers insisted that unless he did it would be impossible to get the Bill through all its stages in time.

But a source close to Mr Hague said that although the Opposition would not actively obstruct the Bill it would not "roll over and have its tummy tickled".

Tony Blair said that without co-operation the measure would not reach the statute book in time. "If they play that game we have got to go back to the old system," he said. "They can use the Tory majority they have got in the House of Lords to scupper us and that is what they have done," he added.

The clash with the Lords will dominate the next parliamentary year at least because of the Bill abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers in the new programme.

Leading article and Letters, page 25

Lady Falkender with the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx. Joe Haines alleges he acted to stop claims about her private life

Wilson 'used spy to protect Falkender'

BY MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

HAROLD WILSON used a private detective to spy on one of his former ministers when he discovered he was about to release damaging information about his Downing Street secretary, Marcia Falkender, it was alleged yesterday.

It is claimed that George Wigg (later Lord Wigg), who had served as the then Prime Minister's Paymaster General, was out to discredit Mrs Falkender by publishing a book that contained "excoriating criticism". Among the revelations was that Mrs Falkender had had two illegitimate children.

The disclosures have been made by Joe Haines, who was Wilson's press secretary, in this week's *Spectator* magazine. "The pot was about to boil over," Mr Haines writes. "Among his (Wigg's) threatened revelations, it was rumoured, was the reproduction of the birth certificates of her two illegitimate sons, whose existence was not generally known at the time of writing."

Wigg: Haines says Silkin was told to spy on him

Wigg had been one of Wilson's closest confidants. But he had become dangerous when he fell out with the Labour leader in 1967 after resigning his government post.

After Wilson returned to Downing Street in 1974, he instructed John Silkin, who was the Minister for Planning and Local Government, to keep an eye on him. "Silkin hired a private detective to trail Wigg and report back his findings," Mr Haines writes. "The private eye diligently followed Wigg one evening to a one-bedroomed flat in London occupied by a woman.

"Wigg did not emerge until the next morning. It was also said that the woman had a son. The inference drawn — how validly I haven't the faintest idea — was that Wigg was his father."

Mr Haines said that Wilson handed him a scrap of paper bearing the address of the woman, but he did not do anything about it. "I lost it before I could decide whether I wanted to be responsible for such a nasty piece of information."

Wilson's actions are not surprising. He was fiercely protective of Marcia, whom he later made Lady Falkender.

The claims follow the revelation that Wilson may have told the police to frame Wigg on what proved to be a failed kerb-crawling charge in 1976.

Mr Haines said that Wigg, who as Paymaster General had had special responsibility for the security services, was "the man who knew too much".

Robinson put under renewed pressure

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Paymaster General, is facing renewed pressure for a further investigation into his business affairs just 24 hours after he was forced to apologise to the Commons for breaking parliamentary rules.

The Tories called for Mr Robinson to face an inquiry into his admission that he failed to register his ownership of a firm for four years between February 1988 and January 1992.

But his link with Roll Center Incorporated, which was the subject of a Tory complaint last week, did not form part of Wednesday's ruling against the minister by the standards and privileges committee.

The Tories are arguing that, if this breach had been included along with the failing for which he was forced to apologise, the cross-party committee might have come to a tougher conclusion.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow Treasury Chief Secretary, said: "The sanction they recommended in respect of the other infringements might have been more severe if this separate and additional breach had been known."

The move appeared to dash hopes in Downing Street that Mr Robinson's apology would draw a line under the affair.

The Tories insist they will pursue the matter and it seems certain to fuel continued speculation about Mr Robinson's future as a Treasury minister.

Hague is playing a schoolboy game with the constitution

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

WILLIAM HAGUE is playing adolescent politics. He and his advisers quickly need to learn some constitutional history, rather than just seeking the cheers of Tory MPs. They are in danger of making the same errors their predecessors did in 1909-11 over the original Parliament Act limiting the powers of the Lords. The Conservative leader is ignoring both the conventions on which the working of our constitution depends, and the checks and balances that he emphasised on Wednesday.

By convention, the Lords is entitled to ask the Commons to think again on an issue, once, even perhaps twice, but no more. Then, the Lords accepts that the elected House should get its way. Of course, there are issues where the Lords would be right to fight on — and it retains an absolute veto over legislation extending the life of a Parliament beyond five years. But the choice of closed versus open lists for the election of Members of the European Parliament does not remotely come into that category.

Tory peers have already breached this convention. Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker, who is against closed lists said: "What will be remembered is that this unelected House frustrated the will of the Commons on five occasions."

Lord Garel-Jones, former Tory Deputy Chief Whip and arch-intriguer, said that if the Government was defeated, it would be a defeat for the Lords and for the Tory party. "Politics is about being grown up. The House is not a sixth-form debating chamber but a grown-up, integral and influential part of the parliamentary process. Its place and high reputation are based not only on the high quality of debates but on the instinct that your Lordships have shown for knowing to what point the elected chamber can be pushed."

After the Bill was dropped for this session, it looked as though good sense would prevail. Baroness Jay of Paddington announced that the Bill would be reintroduced under the Parliament Act. Viscount Cranborne, who knows all about what the Lords can and cannot do, responded that Tory peers "are aware of the limitations on the rights of this House and I hope that we will behave accordingly when the Bill is reintroduced".

Lord Cranborne's caution was quickly overruled by the more gung-ho Mr Hague. He said the Tories would not co-operate in getting the fresh Bill onto the statute book by the mid-January deadline which ministers think is necessary if the new system is to be introduced for next June's Euro-elections. While there is no reason for the Tories to change their view of the Bill, his intransigent language could make the Tories look obstructionist.

These tactics are reminiscent of the wrong-turning that the party took in 1909-11. A large number of Tory/Unionist peers vowed to "fight and die in the last ditch" against limits on their powers. Balfour, the party leader, believed the "ditchers" were being "essentially theatrical" and their language was largely for "music hall consumption". The "ditchers" were only trumped by the announcement that the King would agree to the creation of sufficient peers to carry the Bill. However, the Opposition became increasingly strident over the following three years, even to the brink of illegality over Ireland.

The Tories now have a choice over the Bill to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers. They could capitalise on the Government's fuzziness over the long-term future of the Lords by focusing on the "what next?" question. Or they could defend the hereditary peers, which would please the ultras but play into Tony Blair's hands. Mr Hague and his advisers need to think a lot more before they react.

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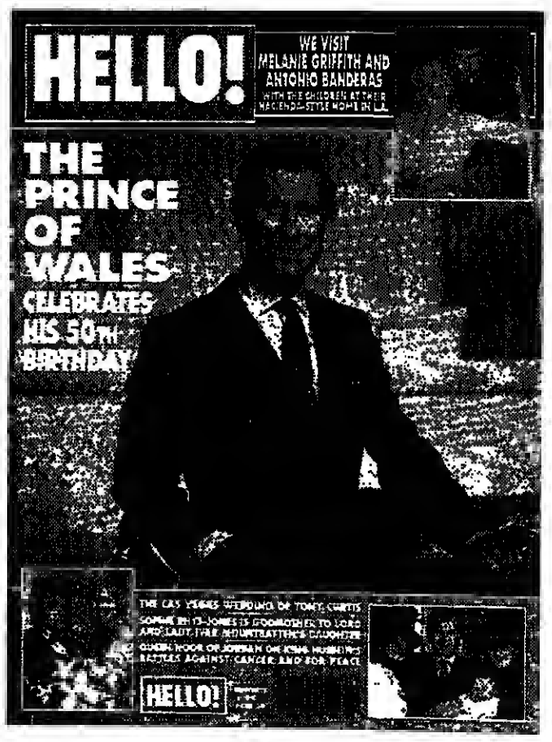
HELLO! wishes to apologise to its readers for keeping them waiting for this week's issue. This was because we wanted to bring you the most up to date coverage of

THE PRINCE OF WALES' 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



PLUS

AT HOME WITH ANTONIO BANDERAS AND MELANIE GRIFFITH

JAMIE LEE CURTIS ATTENDS FATHER TONY'S WEDDING

SOPHIE RHYS-JONES AT THE MOUNTBATTEN CHRISTENING

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Families claim missile caused 1968 air crash

Relatives of Aer Lingus victims take legal action to uncover truth, writes **Audrey Magee**

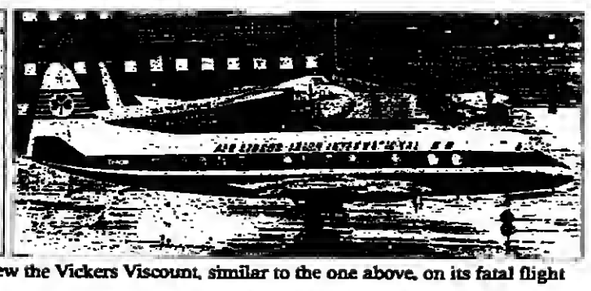
RELATIVES of people killed in an Irish aircraft crash 30 years ago have begun legal action to establish whether the plane was shot down by a British missile or struck by a target aircraft.

The Aer Lingus flight from Cork to London fell 17,000ft into the Irish Sea in March 1968, killing all 61 people on board. No reason was ever found for the crash, leading relatives to suspect that British and Irish officials colluded in a cover-up.

The 200 widows, sons, daughters and cousins of the victims are now taking Aer Lingus and the Irish Government to court to force them to reveal all documents and voice recordings relating to the incident. The Tuskar Air Disaster Relatives Support Group, formed after a 30th anniversary memorial ceremony in March, will later seek British documentation.

The relatives, backed by members of the Irish Parliament, suspect that the *St Phelim*, a Vickers' Viscount, was either shot down by a stray test missile from the Royal Aircraft Establishment's range in Wales or knocked to earth by a British drone, a pilotless aircraft used as a missile target. The base at Aberporth, Dyfed, was then Britain's most advanced missile testing station. It regularly launched ground-to-air rockets at target drones flying over the Irish Sea. The missiles and drones could reach 560mph and fly up to 60,000ft.

David O'Beirne, whose father, Barney, was piloting the aircraft, is chairman of the support group and is building a dossier of witness accounts suggesting a collision and explosion. He said: "A plane does not simply fall out of the sky. There is always a reason for it and somebody knows what that reason is."



Barney O'Beirne flew the Vickers Viscount, similar to the one above, on its fatal flight

Flight EI172 left Cork for Heathrow in clear weather at 11.32am on Sunday, March 24. The aircraft was nine miles south of Hook Head in Wexford at 11.57am, travelling along the designated flight path between Cork and Tuskar Rock off the east coast of Wexford. Forty-one seconds later a message was picked up by London Heathrow Radar: "12,000ft descending, spinning rapidly."

The aircraft plummeted into the water, killing the four crew and 57 passengers, who comprised Irish, British, Belgians, Swiss and Americans. Only 14 bodies were recovered. It is the worst disaster in the history of Aer Lingus.

The rescue operation was initially led by the Ministry of Defence, and the support group has gathered new evidence suggesting that the ministry deliberately hampered the investigation and took pieces of the debris to Britain rather than to Ireland — an allegation denied by the MoD.

Relatives have spoken to Wexford fishermen who were part of the official search team but for two months were forbidden from trawling the crash site. Martin Donoghue, then 15, saw the crash but was later visited at his school by a British admiral and an Aer Lingus official who allegedly insisted that he erase the "plume of water" and loud rumbling noises from his memory. The MoD yesterday dismissed the claim.

Gerry McCabe, an Irish accident investigator, has also voiced his doubts about the Ministry of Defence's reluctance to establish the cause of the accident. He watched as British officials lifted the fuselage out of the water without using nets, a basic tool when dragging an object from the water. He said the fuselage, on hitting the surface, predictably fell back into the water "like a heap of spaghetti", making it impossible to analyse what had happened to the aircraft.

The official Irish report, completed in 1970, found no concrete reason for the crash but its author, Richard O'Sullivan, said then: "The conclusion that there was another aircraft involved is inescapable. No aircraft have been reported missing but there remains the possibility that an unmanned aircraft, either a drone target aircraft or a missile, might have been there."

Mr O'Beirne, a 31-year-old freelance cameraman, insists that the evidence is out there. He said: "There is a British officer who knows what happened and we just want him to come forward and explain the events."

But the British and Irish Governments and Aer Lingus insist that there is nothing to explain. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said that it had checked its files and had not found any evidence of a missile or collision. He pointed out that the Welsh military base was closed on Sundays.

A spokesman for the British Embassy in Dublin said: "We have looked over this very carefully indeed and we have found no evidence whatever to suggest any British involvement. Although we sympathise with the relatives and will do whatever is possible to ease their discomfort, there is really nothing to link the tragedy with Britain."

Arthur Walls, an engineer whose brother died in the crash, headed the internal Aer Lingus investigation into the crash. He said: "I found nothing to suggest it did anything but fall out of the sky.

"You cannot fire a missile on a Sunday morning in Wales without people noticing as they come out of church or walk along the coast."

But relatives remain determined to find a reason. Mr O'Beirne said: "We don't want to find anyone guilty. We just what to know the reason why the people we loved died."

THE TIMES

61 LOST IN AIRLINER OFF WELSH COAST AFTER 'SPINNING' CALL

No trace found in wide search

Recording of last seconds

COLONY OF WATER

How *The Times* reported the crash on March 25, 1968

The wreckage of Flight EI172, recovered in the Irish Sea off the coast of Wexford

Royal Court looks forward in anxiety

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Court, the London theatre with an international reputation for groundbreaking work, faces liquidation unless £3.3 million can be raised by next spring to complete the 19th-century building's redevelopment.

The warning came yesterday from the theatre's former artistic director, Stephen Daldry, who also disclosed that the opening of the redeveloped theatre had been postponed by a year until next autumn because of unforeseen building problems.

The Royal Court, where several of Shaw's plays were premiered and John Osborne inaugurated the "kitchen-sink drama" in 1956 with *Look Back in Anger*, is struggling to find millions from private sources. It has received nearly £19 million from the National Lottery towards the nearly £26 million that the redevelopment will cost, but must find the rest itself.

Although the level of giving so far encourages the theatre to be hopeful, Mr Daldry said that they could "start to feel really frightened" in May. The Arts Council has told the theatre it will not bail it out.

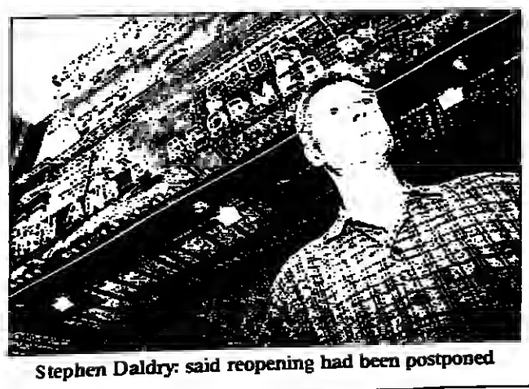
Mr Daldry dismissed talk of a crisis, but if the worst comes to the worst, the nation stands to lose an historic theatre which opened in 1888 and has long been on the cutting edge of British drama and at the centre of controversy. In 1957 it saw Olivier's virtuoso performance in Osborne's *The Entertainer*. Edward Bond's *Saved* (1965), which depicted a baby being stoned to death, led to a court case — and to the abolition of the Lord Chamberlain's powers of censorship.

During the building work, the company has been performing at other London theatres — Conor McPherson's *The Weir* having recently reopened to acclaim. Yesterday, the theatre's artistic director, Ian Rickson, said that while the company has been at the Duke of York's and the Ambassadors, box-office takings have broken records, with nearly 50 plays in two years: "It has been a time of real flowering." Yet, he added, the Arts Council had actually advised the company not to perform during those two years.

Having ignored that advice, it is about to send five of its productions — including *The Weir* — to Broadway and in a fortnight, will announce another five premieres.

But, despite the box-office figures, the theatre still has a revenue deficit of £190,000 and says that it can barely survive on annual revenue funding of £910,000, which has been frozen for five years. It needs an "uplift" of £500,000 a year. The problem, said Mr Daldry, was that people were sick and tired of being asked to contribute to good causes. Dozens of lottery-funded arts ventures were likely to go under for lack of funding, he said.

Mr Daldry yesterday vigorously defended the Arts Council against the charge of cronyism over its decision to give an extra £2.54 million lottery grant to the theatre on whose board Gerry Robinson — the Council's chairman used to serve until March. That top-up followed the original £15.8 million, and a subsequent £477,000.



Stephen Daldry: said reopening had been postponed

Trawler inquiry criticises pipelines

By Shirley English

FISHING trawlers may be ordered to install fast-cutting equipment to free nets that become snagged on oil and gas pipelines on the seabed.

The recommendation is part of the findings of an official investigation into the sinking of the trawler *Westhaven* 120 miles off Aberdeen with the loss of all four crewmen in March 1996.

Yesterday the Marine Accident Investigation Branch called on the Government's Maritime and Coastguard Agency to consider ordering fishermen to install fast-cutting or release equipment to avoid future tragedies.

Its report also asked the Health and Safety Executive and Department of Trade and Industry to consider whether the space between pipelines and the seabed should be removed, or reduced to minimise the possibility of a trawl door (wooden beams that keep the nets open) passing underneath.

The Westhaven sank rapidly in calm seas after the port trawl door snagged on an oil pipeline and dragged the boat under. The pipeline was raised around two metres off the seabed.

Michael Sutherland, of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said discussions were underway with the oil industry and coastguards to address the problems.

Civil courts to be 'pay as you go'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

PEOPLE will have to pay the full cost of pursuing disputes in the civil courts under government plans for "pay as you go" court fees unveiled yesterday.

The proposals from the Lord Chancellor's Department mean hefty rises in many court fees and people will be required to pay for each stage of a civil action, with the costs mounting as they go on. In some cases the full cost of pursuing an action to full trial could be hundreds of pounds more than now.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said fees for protection from domestic violence or harassment, or to resolve disputes on the care of children, would be subsidised. There will still be exemptions for people on low incomes.

The scheme was attacked by the Legal Action Group, representing lawyers and advice workers who deal with people in lower incomes. The substantial rises would deter many lower-income households from pursuing claims, it said.

Vicki Chapman, policy director, said: "We remain strongly opposed to the Government's policy of recovering the full cost of the civil courts from fees — apart from the social subsidy [for those on income support]. These have created an obstruction for many litigants and potential litigants whose incomes are just above the very low level which would entitle them to automatic fee exemption."

A new fees scheme for the civil courts is being devised to make the charges fairer, more consistent and to bring fees into line with the civil justice reforms that come into effect in April. Mr Hoon said: "We feel very strongly that court fees should not act as a barrier to justice. Equally, we don't think litigants can expect the taxpayer to pay for a service if litigants can afford to pay for it themselves."

The Government accepted that some people used the civil courts because they were forced to do so, either to protect themselves or others. Those people — involved in domestic violence proceedings — would have court fees subsidised to the tune of £5.8 million, which is expected to reduce fees in such cases by half. In addition, people on low incomes would not have to pay fees at all.

The proposal would make the civil courts almost self-financing. A crucial element of the new package is that the further along the court process people go, the more fees they will pay, reflecting the greater costs involved.

Mr Hoon said that was in line with encouraging people to make an informed decision about the cost of what they were doing and to encourage early settlement where possible.

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Bishop fears rise in pagans if rural churches close

By Dominic Kennedy

THE English countryside will quickly return to paganism if the Church of England withdraws from remote rural villages, the Bishop of Lincoln warned the General Synod yesterday.

Speaking on the dangers of abandoning village churches, the Right Rev Robert Hardy said the Church of England had declared 1,341 churches redundant between 1969 and 1992, many of them in the countryside.

Rather than closing country churches, he suggested, the Church should recruit more local non-stipendiary ministers.

"Roman Catholics have never worked extensively in the countryside of our diocese," Bishop Hardy said. "Larger areas are unrecoverable for Methodism. It's a case of the Church of England or paganism. I do not exaggerate. If we withdraw we would be back to paganism in large parts of our diocese in a short time. A church gives a community an identity and its rooting in the past."

The shortage of clergy has led Lincoln to become one of the pioneering dioceses experimenting with local non-stipendiary ministers, whose numbers are now rapidly expanding. Manchester, faced with the challenge of problem estates and the shortage of priests in inner-city areas, employed the same solution.

There are only 150 ordained local ministers so far in England but their numbers are increasing; 170 are in training and the total numbers should double by 2002.

There were warnings however that the Church risked creating a class of "other ranks" clergy by ordaining people as part-time local ministers who would be rejected if they applied to be full-time priests.

Critics regard them as unpaid second-class "hobby priests" and some worry at their lack of academic training. The Church is changing their official name to "ordained local ministers".

Canon Patience Purchas, of the St Albans diocese, said: "Many of us are still very uneasy about it. Real reservations are expressed. We do have questions about the calibre of candidates. I do not understand why people do not go through the normal selection process. If they are not up to the standard we should not be ordaining them." She fears local ministers might be unable to preach effectively.

"I do not buy into this argument that there are, in rural parishes or urban parishes, simple rustic people or simple working-class people who will sit and listen to simple words. We are living in a mobile society." Parishioners were sophisticated people who needed a depth of preaching.

The Right Rev John Oliver, Bishop of Hereford, argued that local ministers in his diocese, including a woman on a factory production line, a rural postman and a primary school caretaker, had found unimagined leadership.

The Rev Mary Crameri, of the Salisbury diocese, defended the ordination of a "respected and well-loved" farmer known to his entire village as "our Gerald", who will become a deacon after only a year of training. "To be deacon so early in his training gives him a role so he can deepen and extend his ministry."

Besieged provost wins support

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

A LEADING Scottish bishop yesterday backed Britain's most senior Anglican woman priest, Miriam Byrne, who is facing calls for her resignation two months after she was appointed.

The Bishop of Brechin, the Right Rev Neville Chamberlain, whose diocese includes St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee, where Ms Byrne is provost, said that the row over the latter's leadership style was "undermining Christianity".

It was hoped that the appointment of Ms Byrne, 52, would reassure the coogregation after the resignation of her predecessor, who embezzled funds from a charity.

However, her appointment provoked a fresh outpouring of hostility. Some of the parishioners of St Paul's were aggrieved to learn that she was a twice-married former Roman Catholic oun. Others objected to having a woman provost: the honorary chaplain, George Greig, at St Paul's for 13 years, resigned and a dozen parishioners went with him. Some of her congregation refer to her as "Attila the Nun", compare her style to Baroness Thatcher's, and have demanded the return of Michael Bunce, who was convicted of embezzling £44,000 from a company he set up to help the unemployed.

Last week members of the vestry committee wrote to Bishop Chamberlain citing "pastoral breakdown" between the priest and her congregation, and asking for Ms Bryne to be removed before Christmas. During last Sunday's sermon a petition calling for Dr Bunce to be reinstated was circulated in church.

The mood in the Scottish Episcopal Church is ugly. Even the intervention of the bishop cannot calm the situation. "I feel hugely saddened by what has happened: ashamed and saddened," he said. "What has happened has undermioed what everybody is doing not only for Dundee, but for Angus, the whole diocese of Brechin, and Christianity."

Bishop Chamberlain has passed the request for her resignation to the church's College of Bishops, which has appointed the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, the Right Rev Bruce Cameron, to handle the dispute.

There are claims that, under Ms Byrne's reign, attendances have slumped from 130 to around 25. Bishop Chamberlain denies this. "Dozens of people have not left. Indeed, new people are coming along and the children's section is bigger than it has been for a long time," he said.

Miriam Byrne faces calls for her resignation two months after being appointed Provost of St Paul's in Dundee

Gay vote 'strengthened Anglicanism in Africa'

THE Lambeth Conference vote to condemn homosexual behaviour as sinful has strengthened Anglicanism in Africa, where homosexuals are discriminated against by the Church, the synod was told yesterday.

The Right Rev Josiah Fearon, Bishop of Kaduna, in Nigeria, said lesbians, homosexuals, polygamists and divorcees were not given positions of leadership by the Church in his country. They were loved and given pastoral assistance, he said. "Our communion has never demonised such sisters and/or brothers as the press would have us to believe," he said.

Polygamists, however, were denied the blessed sacraments, he said.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said the gay debate had been difficult and painful but "that was a defining moment that showed very clearly where the bishops and communion are but we are not closing the discussion. The listening must continue."

Piggott: did not know if he would miss trophies

Piggott's memories for sale

IF SHEDDING some of the memorabilia he collected during his distinguished 47-year career means much to Lester Piggott he refuses to show it.

Yesterday, as he surveyed 118 lots to be offered for sale next week at Sotheby's, Mr Piggott confined his answers to a few monosyllabic words and became annoyed when pressed to say more.

It emerged that he was selling the items because he thought people might like to buy them. He agreed that they held many memories and were part of racing history, but said that he did not know whether he would miss them. Perhaps he thought that the trophies, works of art and books — part of the spoils he has collected from riding to more than 5,300 victories in 30 countries — said enough about his achievements.

Mr Piggott's career included nine Derby wins, the first of them in 1954 when, as an 18-year-old, he rode Never Say Die, as well as 21 other English Classic races.

The cheapest lots for sale are six volumes of racing histories, which are expected to fetch between £120 and £180. A bronze statue of Mill Reef, by John Skeaping, is expected to raise up to £12,000.

Six of his Champion Jockey trophies are for sale, including his 11th and final trophy from 1982, which is expected to fetch up to £2,500. The trophy from 1966, when he established a career record of 191 winners in a season, may bring up to £4,000. The lots represent a fraction of his treasures, many of which he has contributed to the National Horseracing Museum near his home at Newmarket.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patrolman is run over on M6

An RAC patrolman was killed when he was struck by a lorry on the hard shoulder of the M6. He was attending to a broken-down van between junctions six and seven in the West Midlands.

Three people were taken to hospital, including the patrolman, who was confirmed dead on arrival. West Midlands Police said a 41-year-old lorry driver from Pontypool in Gwent had been arrested in connection with the accident.

Palace appointee

The Queen has appointed a new assistant private secretary, it was announced. Timothy Hitchens, 36, on secondment from the Foreign Office, will succeed Mary Francis, who will become the Queen's deputy private secretary.

Full Britannia

The former Royal Yacht *Britannia* is on course to become one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions after attracting more than 33,000 visitors since opening to the public on October 19 at her new home in the Edinburgh port of Leith.

Walker's death

Robert Stirrup, 42, of Haydock, near St Helens, fell 3,000ft to his death while on Tryfan in Snowdonia after drinking the equivalent of 30 measures of spirit, a pathologist told an inquest at Bangor, North Wales. Verdict: open.

Charity match

MPs from Britain and Hungary are to play each other in a charity football match in Hungary next week on the 45th anniversary of the match in 1953 in which Hungary's "Golden Team" beat England 6-3, at Wembley.

Can't see the joke

An optician has changed the name of her business from Spex Shop to Spec Shop after vandals kept removing the letter P from the sign. Michelle Wise, of Carlisle, said: "I have been pretty embarrassed about the laughter outside the shop."

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Nissan Cherry	155x13	£13.50	£12.40	£3
Maestro	165x13	£15.50	£14.50	£2
Nissan Micra	155/70x13	£13.50	£12.40	£3
Lada Samara	165/70x13	£13.50	£12.50	£2
Ford Orion	175/70x13	£16.45	£15.50	£2
Renault 21	185/70x13	£17.50	£16.50	£2
Golf GTI	185/60x14	£20.45	£19.95	£2
Fiat Croma	195/60x14	£23.45	£21.95	£4

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Ford Fiesta	135x12	£12.95	£11.50	£2
VW Golf	145x13	£16.95	£14.50	£4
Vauxhall Astra	155x13	£17.95	£16.45	£3
Honda Accord	165x13	£19.95	£15.95	£8
Fiat Uno	155/70x13	£21.95	£19.95	£4
Peugeot 309	165/70x13	£23.95	£21.00	£5
Mazda 323	175/70x13	£25.95	£23.95	£4
Toyota Camry	185/70x13	£26.95	£24.40	£5
Volvo 460	175/70x14	£33.95	£28.95	£10
Renault 25	185/70x14	£29.95	£26.95	£6

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Vauxhall Corsa	165/70x13	£33.95	£29.50	£8
Fiat Strada	165/65x13	£39.95	£37.50	£4
Ford Mondeo	185/65x14	£45.95	£39.95	£12
Citroen AX	185/60HR13	£39.95	£37.95	£4

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Ford Fiesta	135x13	£25.95	£23.45	£5
VW Jetta	145x13	£31.95	£27.95	£8
Rover 213	155x13	£34.95	£32.95	£4
VW Passatt	165x13	£35.45	£33.45	£5
Fiat Tipo	165/70x13	£40.95	£35.95	£10

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EG TO FIT	TYRE SIZE	EACH FROM	PRICE EACH WHEN U BUY 2	SAVE
Rover 216GTi	185/60HR14	£29.95	£26.95	£6
BMW 320i	185/70HR14	£30.95	£28.95	£4
Cavalier SRi	195/60HR14	£32.95	£29.00	£7
Peugeot 405	185/65HR14	£36.95	£29.45	£15
Renault 25 TXi	195/60HR15	£40.95	£35.95	£10

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A third of children's accidents 'avoidable'

ONE in three of the 1,400 British children who die from injuries each year could be saved by simple measures to prevent accidents, a report published yesterday has found.

Moves to make children's everyday environment safer — such as cutting speed limits and fitting guard rails to high windows — would cut serious injuries dramatically and save millions of pounds, say doctors who contributed to the report published in a special issue of *Injury Prevention*.

Accidents pose a much bigger threat to children and teenagers than any disease, accounting for half of all deaths in the age group and costing the NHS £1.2 billion a year. Even so, they are rarely seen as a preventable risk by health officials.

Barry Pless, editor of *Injury Prevention*, said stopping mishaps was the single largest contribution the medical profession could make towards young people's health.

Doctors 'could not have saved Diana'

Report says that injuries sustained by the Princess were too severe for effective treatment, writes **Susan Bell**

DOCTORS were powerless to save Diana, Princess of Wales, because her injuries were too severe, a French forensic medical expert has told the judge in charge of the investigation into her death.

"Nowhere in the world's medical literature has there been documented a case of survival after such damage to the pulmonary vein," said Dominique Lecomte, director of the Medical-Legal Institute and head of the Paris morgue in a ten-page report submitted to Hervé Stéphan, the investigating magistrate. There had been no medical error in the Princess's treatment, Dr Lecomte concluded.

He said that the shock of the car's impact with the pillar in the tunnel under the Place de l'Alma had knocked the Princess's heart severely out of position. "The Princess's heart had been displaced within the ribcage provoking a tear in the pulmonary vein," the huge blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart, he said.

The tear caused a fatal haemorrhage, leaving the Princess to bleed quickly to death. The report is intended to provide the final word on whether the Princess received adequate medical care from the French emergency services.

Some medical experts uninvolved in the investigation have questioned whether she might have been saved if she had been rushed to the nearest hospital rather than receiving treatment on the spot. It took emergency workers about 1½ hours to get the Princess to hospital because they tried to stabilise her condition at the scene before moving her to La Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital.

A book published in June by two journalists from *L'Express* fuelled the debate about whether more could have been done to save her life by portraying emergency workers as being unaware of the extent of her injuries. The book, *Investigation into the Death of Diana*, by Jean-Marie Pontaut and Jérôme Dupuis, quoted the emergency medical specialist who treated her at the scene, Jean-Marc Martino, as saying that her heart stopped immediately after workers extracted her from the wrecked Mercedes.

Stéphan: preparing report

Dr Martino performed heart massage and succeeded in getting her heart restarted, but it was not until the Princess arrived at the hospital, more than half an hour later, that doctors were able to diagnose her most serious injury: the tear in the left pulmonary vein. The book claimed that emergency workers at the scene had treated a symptom — rapidly falling blood pressure — by giving the Princess transfusions, without first repairing the tear in the pulmonary vein. By doing so, the authors suggested, they filled her chest cavity with fluid which may have done her more harm than good, raising the question of whether a different course of treatment might have saved her life.

In his report, Dr Lecomte firmly rejected this thesis. "The treatment given was in accordance with current medical knowlege with regard to the circumstances of the intervention and to the certified injuries," he said.

A previous report prepared for Judge Stéphan on the subject had declined to say whether the care the Princess received had been adequate, saying that it was impossible to tell without an autopsy, which was not performed.

Judge Stéphan is expected to conclude his investigation by the end of the year. His report will be transferred to Paris prosecutors, who will decide whether there has been any wrongdoing and if there are grounds to pursue the case in court.

The Duke of York in a garland presented to him at Tonga High School yesterday

Duke admits he hated school

By Peter Archer

THE Duke of York went back to the classroom yesterday and disclosed that he did not enjoy his schooldays.

Like his brother, the Prince of Wales, the Duke disclosed that his time at Gordonstoun was not always to his liking. He told pupils at Tonga High School: "I do hope you enjoy your schooldays — I didn't until after I left."

The Duke, 38, was given a pop star's reception at the school, founded by the King of Tonga 50 years ago. Boys in grey *tupenu* — traditional Tongan skirts - and girls in maroon dresses, with yellow ribbons in their hair, sang and clapped and cheered as the garlanded royal visitor did a walkabout.

"He's really open and more friendly than you would expect. You can talk to him," said Laucala Pohiva, a young journalist covering the Duke's visit for the *Tonga Times*.

The Duke, who is on an eight-day tour of the South Pacific, visited the school's language laboratory and listened to a class of 15 and 16-year-olds learning French and Japanese. He also sat in on a computer studies class.

Looking relaxed in shirtsleeves, the Duke also visited Tonga's Royal School of Science, which was set up by the Sandhurst-trained Crown Prince Tupouto'a. Students, many from the Tonga Defence Service, access university courses via the Internet. In this way they can graduate at universities around the world, including Leeds, Queen's Belfast, St Andrews, Oxford Brookes and the Open University.

TheCrown Prince wants to secure the benefits of information technology for his tiny, underdeveloped island, where the slow pace of life is reflected in the 25mph speed limit in towns and villages.

At the end of his visit, the Duke travelled back in time as Thursday became Wednesday. Leaving Tonga at 3pm on Thursday, he crossed the International Date Line and arrived in Western Samoa, after a 90-minute flight, 22½hours earlier, on Wednesday.

So, for the Duke, this week has had two Wednesdays and Thursdays and there were two birthdays for his equerry, Captain Craig Dalgliesh, of the New Zealand Army, who was 31 on Thursday.

In Samoa the Duke was the guest of honour at an evening's entertainment in the grounds of the country's Parliament, where fire-dancing was top of the bill. *(PA News)*

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Labour set for rough ride over reforms

Expect sparks to fly when the Government unveils its legislative programme next week, writes **Jill Sherman**

LABOUR'S move to end the voting rights of hereditary peers, the centrepiece of Tuesday's Queen's Speech, is set to provoke one of the most bitter parliamentary sessions for decades.

Labour's long-cherished ambition to neuter a significant proportion of the Upper House will cause uproar in the second chamber and risks holding up other government bills. It could take over a year to get through.

The Tory party has already said it will thwart the move unless and until Labour comes up with credible proposals for the second stage of its reforms for the Lords.

About 14 main Bills are to be included in the Queen's Speech together with some other contentious measures also destined for a rough ride through Parliament.

The Cabinet winners appear to be Jack Straw and Peter Mandelson with three Bills each and Alistair Darling and Derry Irvine, who both won a last-minute space for Bills. The main loser is John Prescott, who failed to get either of his two Transport Bills.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

THE BILLS AND THE BATTLES

Mr Mandelson's Bill on trade union recognition rights is expected to be opposed by the Tories but Labour MPs will also be incensed if any of the key points of the Fairness at Work White Paper are watered down in the legislation.

The Welfare Reform Bill will also be highly controversial. Tony Blair is determined to convince both MPs and the public that he is serious about modernising the welfare system. Frank Field's bid to "think the unthinkable" failed spectacularly, ending in his resignation as Welfare Minister, partly because his plans were too costly.

But Alistair Darling risks a sizeable Labour revolt over his plans to target disability benenefits. New medical tests for the disabled are expected to penalise new claimants and incapacity benefit will be means-tested for the better off. Mr Darling's move to require all benefit claimants to seek work in return for welfare payments is also contendous and signals the first forays into American style workfare.

The Access to Justice Bill which ends the monopoly of barristers in Crown Courts will be bitterly opposed by many of the Lord Chancellor's friends at the Bar while the Bill for a Greater London Authority will spark a huge debate about the London mayor.

The Government may now have to make time for the European Elections Bill soon after the new session begins, which could affect the timing of the Bill on hereditary peers. Tony Blair has attacked the "democratic monstrosity" of an inbuilt majority of Tory peers. That "monstrosity" will be fighting for its survival over the next 12 months.

Other Bills which will be included in the Queen's Speech include reducing the age of consent for gays from 18 to 16, new laws on asylum-seekers and a Criminal Justice Bill including measures to protect vulnerable witnesses from cross-examination in court.

Mr Prescott will, however, get a draft Bill which will allow him to set up a shadow rail authority to improve standards on franchised railways and be has also managed to sneak measures to pilot congestion charging in London into a much wider Bill on the London assembly.

GOODBYE, SILVER STICK

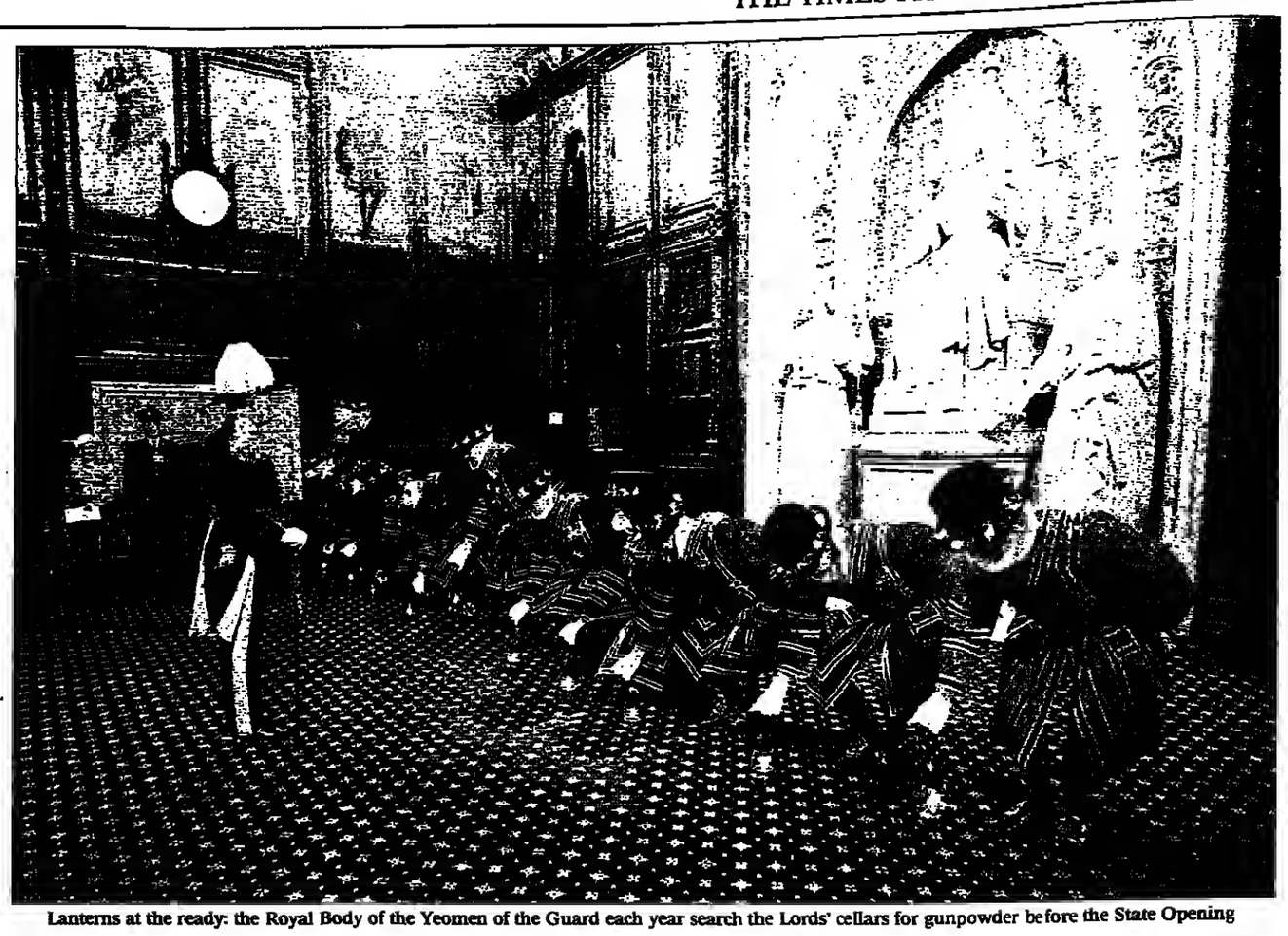
NEXT week's State Opening of Parliament will contain all the usual ceremonial pomp but fewer of the bizarrely-named holders of ancient offices.

Silver Stick, the commanding officer of the Household Cavalry, is one of the victims of a modernisation drive approved by the Queen. The whole process will also be speeded up. Black Rod will set off to summon the Commons to the Lords before the Queen has arrived on the throne, reducing the uncomfortable wait for MPs to arrive.

One of the Queen's three ladies-in-waiting has been dropped, along with the Crown Equerry and two gentlemen ushers. Gold Stick in Waiting, the Colonel of the Household Cavalry, remains in place.

But the Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State will be missing for the first time in centuries. And the chiefs of all three Services have been replaced by the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie.

However, one of the quirkiest moments has been retained. Earl Marshall and the Lord Great Chamberlain will continoe to walk backwards ahead of the Sovereign.



Lanterns at the ready: the Royal Body of the Yeomen of the Guard each year search the Lords' cellars for gunpowder before the State Opening

The pace of change hots up

A SUMMARY OF THE BILLS TO COME

■ Welfare Reform Bill

Shake-up of benefits for long-term sick and disabled. New medical tests for incapacity benefit claimants plus targeting money on the poor and the young disabled. Incapacity benefit will be reduced if claimant has private pension or health insurance plans.

☐ Every benefit claimant, including lone mothers and disabled people, required to attend a job interview before being entided to state payments.

☐ Pension reforms — elements of longer term second stakeholder pensions to be settled.

Problems: Alistair Darling's drive to modernise the welfare state is likely to provoke a backbench rebellion in the Commons over cutbacks for the disabled, and be resisted by the Lords.

■ Fairness at Work Bill

☐ Union recognition if 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour. Automatic recognition if 50 per cent of workers are union members, possibly with minimum three-month membership period.

☐ Reducing from two years to one the qualification period for protection against unfair dismissal.

☐ Raising the ceiling for unfair dismissal awards from £12,000 to about £50,000.

Problems: Bill still to be finalised. Peter Mandelson will face a backlash from MPs with union links if he bows to employer demands to water down White Paper pledge on 50 per cent recognition. Tory peers will fight plans to give unions more power.

■ NHS Modernisation Bill

☐ Abolishing GP fundholding and replacing it with primary care groups to commission services.

☐ Giving the Government powers to send in hit squads to failing hospitals and setting up an institute of clinical excellence to set standards of care. Imposing a legal requirement on hospitals to provide quality care.

Problems: Frank Dobson should have a reasonably clear ride through the Commons but Tory peers may oppose scrapping GP fundholding, a key Tory reform.

■ Local Government Bill

☐ Measures to allow local councils to introduce elected mayors and mini-cabinets. Paves the way for local government hit squads to take over failing councils.

☐ Giving local councils powers to hold referendums on local issues.

☐ Replacing compulsory competitive tendering with "best value" practice. Getting rid of universal capping for local authorities and putting in place more flexible system.

Problems: John Prescott will face opposition over plans to let councils hold referendums, as many fear that local fox-hunting bans could follow.

■ Access to Justice Bill

☐ Will give solicitors wider access to the higher courts, ending the monopoly barristers in private practice now have on the Crown Courts.

☐ Includes wide-ranging reforms of legal aid in an attempt to target help and reduce costs. Tradidonal legal aid will be replaced with a no-win, no-fee system for lawyers who take on civil action for all but family cases.

☐ Legal Aid Board will be able to contract out blocks of work to law firms who can compete for business on a fixed-price basis.

☐ Promotion of community legal services including advice bureauxand hotlines to try to avoid court cases.

Problems: Derry Irvine only persuaded colleagues at the last minute to include the bill and could face huge opposition from the legal profession and peers.

■ Financial Services Bill

☐ Measures to streamline and simplify financial services reguladdon by setting up one statutory body which will replace a range of smaller ones. The Financial Services Authority will be given a range of powers to supervise and regulate the City in a drive to stamp out insider trading and pension mis-selling.

Problems: City has been concerned that FSA will have too much power. MPs unlikely to put up much resistance.

■ Contributions Agency Merger bill

☐ Bill to merge the ContributionsAgency, which handles national insurance contributions and the Inland Revenue to ease the administraddon of tax and NICs.

Problems: None envisaged. Technical bill. Should have easy passage.

■ Hereditary Peers Bill

☐ Would abolish the voting and sitting rights of Britain's 750 hereditary peers. Despite a declining chance that they would be allowed to retain "club rights", giving them access to the Lords' bars and restaurants, it would effectively banish them from Parliament for the first time in 800 years.

Problems: Peers have made clear they will fight for their lives to the bitter end, using every parliamentary tactic in the book to delay the inevitable. Their filibustering could cause huge problems for Baroness Jay, the Leader of the Lords, as she tries to ensure the passage of other government legislation. The Government faces criticism over its two-stage policy of reform. Opposition will focus less on the merits of the hereditaries and more on the uncertainty of what is to follow them.

Critics will highlight the period immediately following their departure, when the upper chamber will be made up solely of appointees, and the final make-up of the second chamber, which is in the hands of a Royal Commission.

■ London Bill

☐ Sets up the mechanism for a Greater London Authority and the post of a directly-elected Mayor for the capital.

It will also allow John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to pilot a scheme charging drivers for entering the city — so-called congestion-charging.

Problems: With the Tories now supporting the idea of a Mayor, the Bill is unlikely to face major hiccups. The Labour leadership is hostile to the party's front-runner, Ken Livingstone, and the Tory leadership shows little enthusiasm for its only runner to date, Lord Archer.

■ Age of Consent Bill

☐ Cuts the age of consent for homosexual sex from 18 to 16. It will include guidelines to protect youths aged 16 and 17 at school, in care and in the armed forces from relationships with men holding a position of responsibility.

Problems: The issue was defeated by the Lords last summer and will be bitterly opposed by peers again. The protection guidelines have since been included to meet some of the concerns of critics.

■ Electronic Exchange Bill

☐ Seeks to make the Internet more business friendly by liberalising the regulation surrounding electronic information.

Internet users are likely to be given a "digital signature", currently used by some banks but lacking the full backing of law. The signatures allow users to verify their identity on line and are designed to make electronic exchange safer and reduce fraud.

Problems: Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, believes that he is pushing at an open door on the issue. Opposition is likely to come less from MPs and more from IT experts who understand the issue.

■ Insolvency Bill

☐ Aims to cut the number of business failures on two fronts. Peter Mandelson wants to relax the Government's role as "Crown creditor". It gives the Inland Revenue first call on unpaid company debts ahead of other creditors and means the Government is responsible for hundreds of liquidations every year.

Firms fighting insolvency are also to be allowed a month's protection from creditors to put together rescue plans.

Problems: Critics are likely to paint the moves as a "rogue's charter", which will encourage more fraud cases. The Treasury could also see its income drop.

■ Asylum and Immigration Bill

☐ Brings in tough rules affecting all asylum seekers. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, wants to replace cash handouts with benefits "in kind" in the shape of vouchers. The final details could also include the opdon of issuing plastic "smart cards" for the purchase of food and clothing.

☐ Asylum seekers will also be expected to take up offers of accommodation anywhere in the country, and would lose the right to housing if they refuse.

Problems: Labour MPs will say that the measures are too draconian. Civil rights groups are alarmed that the smart cards could be a forerunner to compulsory idendty cards.

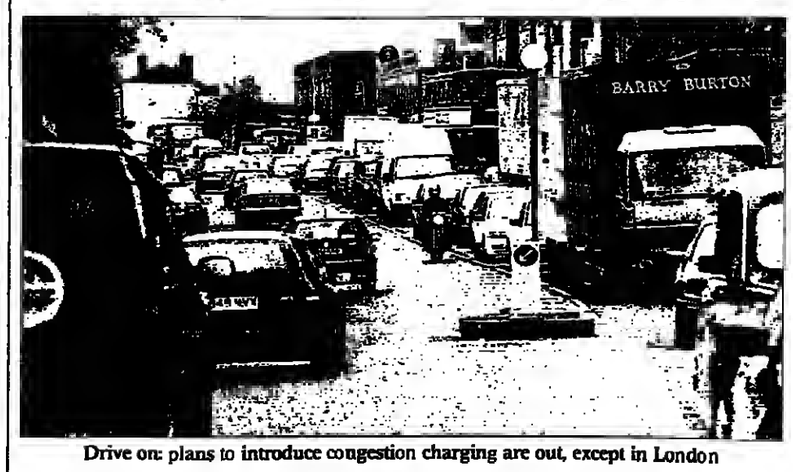
■ Criminal Justice Bill

☐ Offers greater protection to witnesses in court by ending the automatic right of defendants to cross-examine a rape victim. The measure follows several cases where female victims of sexual attacks have had to undergo the ordeal of lengthy interrogation by their alleged attacker.

☐ Jack Straw wants to speed up justice, including measures to give greater powers for judges to clear the public gallery in cases involving extreme physical or sexual violence.

Problems: Law Lords are opposed to removing defendant's rights to cross examine. The Lord Chief Justice believes the few cases affected do not justify such a step.

● *Compiled by Jill Sherman ond Roland Watson*



Drive on: plans to introduce congestion charging are out, except in London

Dropped — the ones that got away

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Queen's Speech has been stripped of several controversial items which could have been held up in the Lords for months. Business managers took an early decision not to include a bill to ban fox-hunting and have made clear that they will not allow time for a Private Member's Bill on the issue. There will also be no attempt to introduce laws to allow walkers the right to roam across thousands of acres of land owned by members of the Upper House.

Other bills which have been squeezed out of the coming legislative session include:

☐ A Freedom of Information Bill giving access to state documents.

☐ Measures to set up a Food Standards Agency as a watchdog on food safety.

☐ A Bill on integrated transport which includes congestion charging (although measures to pilot road charges will be in the London Bill).

☐ Measures for more regulation of the railways (though John Prescott has been given the consolation prize of a draft Bill with promises of new laws in 2000).

☐ Curbs on party funding for elections and referendums after recommendations in the report by Lord Neill of Bladen.

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Italy faces trade war as Turks demand 'terrorist'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A TURKISH boycott of Italian goods began to bite yesterday as Italian industrialists said they feared that the worsening row between Rome and Ankara over a detained Kurdish leader would "badly damage" lucrative trade.

Turkey stepped up its pressure on Italy to extradite Abdullah Ocalan, 49, who was arrested at Rome airport six days ago, and the Italian press predicted an imminent "diplomatic rupture" between two key members of Nato's Mediterranean flank. "Rome and Ankara on the brink," said a headline in *La Stampa*.

Turkish importers yesterday announced a boycott of Italian shoes, machinery and jewellery, and protesters destroyed fruit and foodstuffs imported from Italy.

Italy is the second-biggest exporter of goods to Turkey, with exports so far this year worth £1.5billion. Some of Italy's best known companies have invested heavily in trade with Turkey, including Benetton, Pirelli and the food conglomerate Barilla. "The Turks are cancelling contracts right and left," said an Italian businessman at a Milan trade fair.

Travel agents said that Turkish tour operators had cancelled all bookings to Italy and withdrawn advertising.

Italian sports fans — nearly every Italian — also fear that next Wednesday's European Champions League match between Juventus and Galatasaray in Istanbul will turn into a violent anti-Italian demonstration, and may have to be cancelled.

The scale of Turkish fury over the arrest of Mr Ocalan, founder of the Marxist PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party), seems to have taken Italians by surprise. For Turkey, Mr Ocalan is a criminal responsible for 30,000 deaths since 1984 caused by the Kurdish uprising in southeastern Turkey.

But many Italians are sympathetic to Kurdish independence, and Catholic charities have offered shelter to hundreds of Kurdish refugees who have arrived on Italy's southern coasts illegally. "Ankara's anger is misplaced," said *Corriere della Sera*, pointing out that constitutionally, Italy could not extradite anyone to a country where the death penalty still applied. "It is also ironic, since Italy has done more than any other European country to advance Turkey's ambition to become a member of the European Union."

La Stampa said it was "perpelexing" to see the Italian tricolour being burned by "demon-like" Turks. Massimo D'Alema, the normally mild-mannered Italian Prime Minister, reacted with unusual vehemence to Turkish suggestions that by failing to hand over Mr Ocalan, Italy risked being seen as an "accomplice to terrorism".

Signor D'Alema said that Italy would follow "the proper legal procedures", and it was not in the habit of "bowing to intimidation".

The Italian leader also referred to Zulkuf Yilmaz, a 30-year-old Kurd who set fire to himself in a Rome street this week in protest against Ankara's attempts to have Mr Ocalan extradited. Mr Yilmaz, one of thousands of Kurds who have converged on Rome to lobby the Italian Government to grant their revered leader asylum, is in hospital with burns to 40 per cent of his body. Signor D'Alema said that "when a human being sets fire to himself to assert his ideas and defend his rights, you have to listen carefully to what he is saying".

However, Signor D'Alema also emphasised that Italy was "a friend and ally" of Turkey. He said the Ocalan affair was "not simply an Italian-Turkish problem", but had highlighted an issue — Kurdish independence — that had to be resolved by Europe.

"We expect total and active solidarity from the rest of Europe on this," the Italian leader said. But his offer to talk to Turkish leaders in the margins of the Juventus-Galatasaray match was rejected by Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister. He said Signor D'Alema would have to "come and see me in Ankara".

Leading article, page 25

REUTERS

Conditions are grim in medical facilities in the Russian prison system, such as in this jail in the North Caucasus. Tuberculosis and HIV infection are common

Russian psychiatrist dreams of Broadmoor

Hope is in short supply for inmates, writes **Anna Blundy**

THERE is a woman in Oryol who dreams of Broadmoor. She speaks lovingly of the green lawns stretching out towards the security fences, the tall trees in the surrounding area and the main hospital building itself. "Just like a castle," she says with a sigh. "I think of it often. I had a little room at the top overlooking the gardens."

Tatyana Kotov is director of Oryol High Security Psychiatric Hospital in central Russia, an institution housing 800 patients, one of whom is a woman, all of whom have committed murders, 95 per cent of whom committed their crime under the influence of alcohol and a third of whom are suffering from tuberculosis.

Walking in the bleak hospital grounds and comparing the place with the relative luxury of Broadmoor, which she visited last year, one can sympathise with Mrs Kotov. Overwhelmingly depressing, the hospital consists of a few squat, hastily erected Soviet buildings, a farm where patients breed coypu — rodents — for meat, a lot of iron bars and a few concrete paths across bare earth that is either muddy or frozen, depending on the time of year.

The people who come here, and they include serial killers, spend an average of two and a half years overcoming their psychological illnesses with the help of drugs and psychotherapy (although both are in short supply). Broadmoor, says Kotov, has a turnover of about 60 patients a year out of 500, whereas Oryol is forced to release up to 400 a year.

"Broadmoor has 25 people in a ward, where we have 90," she adds. "They have 550 medical staff to 500 patients. Their security guards have medical training. We have nearly double the number of patients and half the number of staff: 250, of whom 100 are security guards provided by the Interior Ministry." Patients spend most of the day in small, bare cells housing up to eight people.

The tuberculosis epidemic, says Mrs Kotov, is a nightmare. "We started with one TB ward, then two, three and finally four out of 11," she says. At the moment there are more than 90,000 prisoners throughout Russia suffering from TB, many of whom caught the disease in prison.

Patients used to help at local factories but these all closed after the economic crisis began to bite in August, and now, for the most part, they seem lethargic and bored. "They are almost all uneducated, from miserable backgrounds with nothing to look forward to in life. That is why they used to drink."

Mrs Kotov laughs at the suggestion that there might be enough money for all the anti-psychotic drugs she needs. "We don't feed them as we would like and we don't have the medicines, the addiction experts or the psychotherapists we need. This is not Broadmoor."

Honduras Emergency Appeal

International Care & Relief (ICR) has received an urgent request from the Honduran Ambassador for emergency relief supplies in the aftermath of the terrible disaster that has swept over Central America.

Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras last week leaving 5,273 dead and 11,083 missing. Over 2 million people have lost their homes. Entire communities have been wiped out and bridges have been destroyed. 70% of staple crops have gone.

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V8b

Crusoe treasure hunt on rocks

TREASURE hunters were yesterday forced to give up a search on Robinson Crusoe Island, 400 miles from Chile, after they hit solid rock at a site where they believed they would find a hoard of gold and diamonds (Gabriella Gamini writes).

A team led by Bernard Keisser, a Californian scientist and bounty hunter, had been digging for five days. They had hoped to find treasure worth more than £7billion.

Mr Keisser said he would resume the hunt after more research. But Chilean officials said further permissioo to dig on the nature reserve in the Juan Fernández archipelago might not be given.

The scientists had followed satellite images believed to pinpoint the treasure, thought to have been buried in 1718 by the crew of the English ship *Unicorn*. Mr Keisser said the gold was most likely being transported from Mexico to Spain, when it was taken by British pirates.

His research had indicated that the gold was buried near the Robinson Crusoe cave, where the Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk — widely believed to have been Daniel Defoe's model for his book — supposedly lived in 1704-09.

Clinton grilled about affair by Tokyo woman

Even in Japan the President cannot escape his past, Robert Whymant writes

PRESIDENT Clinton, who might have thought he had left the Lewinsky scandal at home, was embarrassed to be confronted over the affair by a Japanese housewife last night.

Fielding questions at an American-style public meeting in Tokyo, Mr Clinton was challenged by an Osaka mother of two through an interpreter.

"How did you apologise to Mrs Clinton and Chelsea?" she asked. "I'd never be able to forgive my husband for doing that. But did they really forgive you, Mr President?"

Looking uncomfortable, Mr Clinton said: "Well, I did in a direct and straightforward manner and I believe they did, yes." After a burst of self-conscious laughter from his audience, he added: "But that's really a question you could ask them better than me."

The presenter handling the questions for a television audience then hurriedly shifted the discussion to safer topics.

Mr Clinton, who is in Tokyo to urge Japan to take swifter action to revive its economy, appealed directly to the public to bail their country out of its worst economic slump since the war by spending and consuming more. He touched on the threat to the global economy posed by Japan, where the pessimism of consumers and their reluctance to spend have stunted growth in the world's second biggest economy.

"I think that anything that can be done to boost confidence in consumers and to boost consumption is a good thing," he told the meeting.

But Mr Clinton said that Japan was "essentially moving in the right direction" by reforming its sickly banking sector and stimulating domestic demand.

The President is to meet Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, today. With Japanese imports falling, and the American trade deficit swelling, Washington is deeply frustrated by Tokyo's failure to promote domestic demand and open its markets.

Mr Obuchi may find it easier to push through economic legislation needed to cope with the recession after a surprise political realignment yesterday. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party announced it was forming an alliance with the opposition Liberal Party, a move that puts the ruling party within reach of a majority in the Upper House.

Mr Obuchi said he would assure Mr Clinton of "Japan's firm resolve to return the economy to positive growth" and explain how a new $196 billion (£122 billion) stimulus package would help to pull Japan out of its recession.

Also on the agenda is the expansion of the military alliance between the two countries that has formed the backbone of the Japan-US relationship since the end of the Second World War. Mr Clinton is expected to urge Mr Obuchi to speed up legislation to allow Japan to shoulder a bigger security burden in Asia. President Clinton has said he wants today's meeting to also focus on ways to reduce the threat posed by North Korea.

Experts say the real importance of the visit, which will last just 28 hours, is that it is a symbolic gesture to salve Japan's injured pride. Tokyo felt slighted when Mr Clinton went to China in the summer without making a stopover in Japan. The sense of hurt at being bypassed was so acute it spawned a new Japanese-English expression in the local media, "Japan-passing", to signify that the US now sets more store by ties with China.

SCOTT DALTON / AP

A Mayan woman wraps a traditional shawl around Hillary Clinton in Antigua, Guatemala, during the First Lady's Central America tour. She praised the country's return to peace after civil war and announced more aid for victims of Hurricane Mitch

Perón invited Nazis to live in Argentina

By Gabriella Gamini

NEW evidence has emerged to show that Argentina's late former President, General Juan Perón, encouraged a policy of inviting Nazi war criminals to take refuge in his country after the Second World War.

A team of historians, scientists, Jewish leaders and officials who comprise a government-sponsored commission, investigating Argentina's role as a Nazi shelter, has found papers that show Perón discussed Nazi immigration in meetings at his palace.

The team was created nearly two years ago in response to accusations that some of the gold that was looted by Nazis from victims of the Holocaust might have been transferred to Argentina.

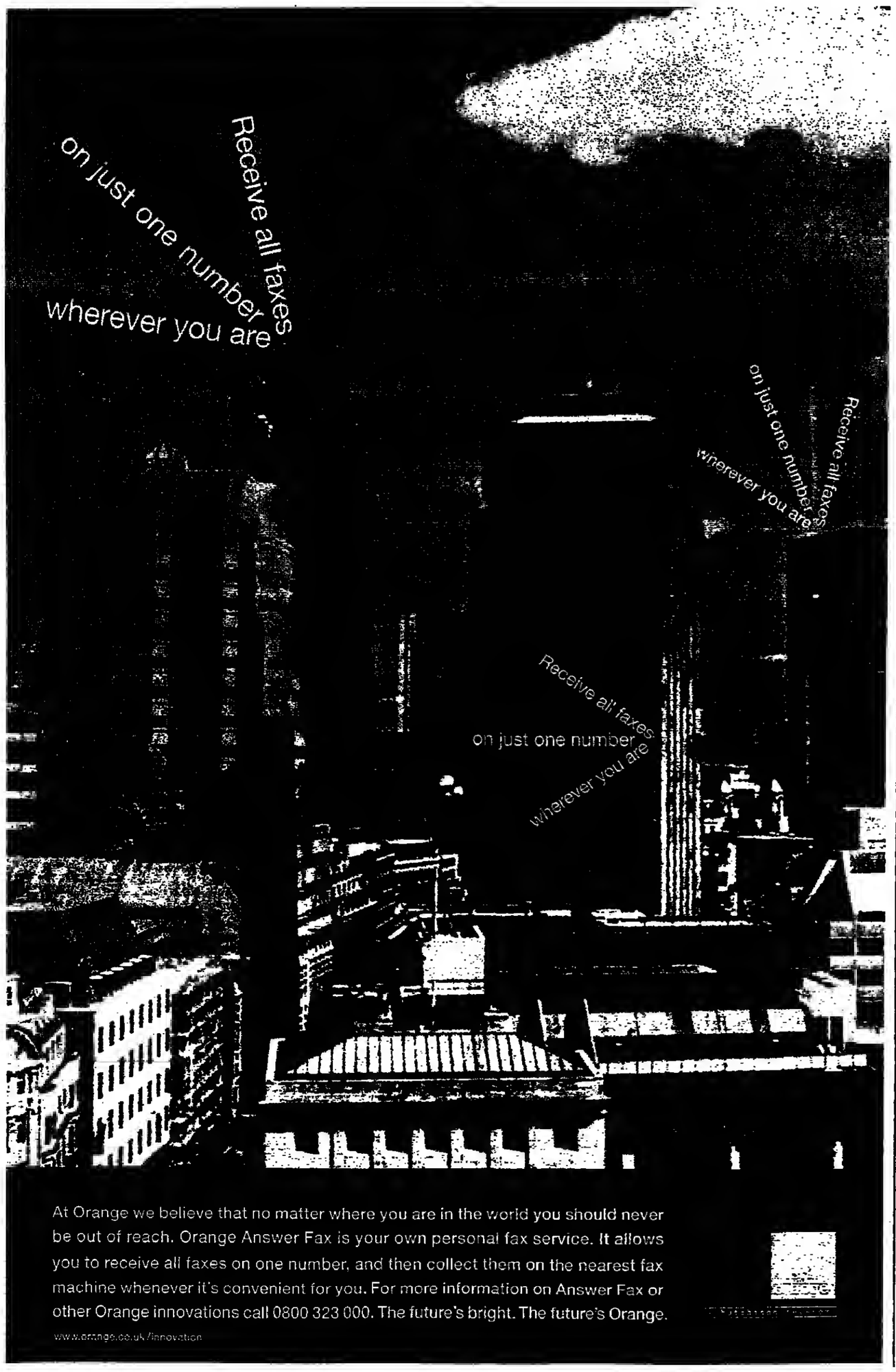
Ignacio Klich, a prominent leader of the 300,000-strong Jewish community in Argentina and head of the commission, said that they had seen notes made by Perón's adviser, Pierre Daye. They show that senior officials met at the Casa Rosada palace to discuss opening "Argentina's doors to fleeing Nazi officers".

The commission says documents show that Perón signed the approval to create an official network to help to bring European immigrants, including war criminals, to Argentina. It says that at least 150 Nazi "Holocaust" propagators arrived or passed through the country after the war.

However, the papers do not provide a list of names of those who entered the country. Although it is widely known that notorious Nazis such as Josef Mengele and Adolf Eichmann lived in Argentina for many years, investigators are keen to uncover a full list.

Señor Klich said the documents show that "Perón and the participants at meetings were aware of the background of these characters". Perón is said to have sent officials to Europe to "pick out" Nazis who could bring scientific and technical skills to Argentina.

Perón: sought Germans with scientific skills



Bodies of tortured children uncovered

By Gabriella Gamini, South America Correspondent

COLOMBIAN authorities are investigating the killing of 25 children whose skeletal remains were found in an overgrown ravine and at a nearby abandoned building site in the western city of Pereira. The children had apparently been tortured before their deaths.

Police found the bodies of 13 of the children, aged between eight and 16, in an overgrown ditch beside a river on Tuesday. They had begun a search after electricians, who had been working nearby, reported a strong smell of decomposition and what they believed were animal bones.

Bottles of rum had been left near the remains, police said, and two "small, tortured bodies" were found tied to trees. "It was difficult to count the bodies at first because some of the skeletons were incomplete," said Elena Osorio, a state prosecutor in Pereira, 100 miles west of Bogotá. "But forensic examinations in the end managed to put together the skulls to determine that 13 children were dumped in the ravine. There are signs of torture and most of the bodies were dismembered," Señora Osorio said.

In a previous incident, Pereira police last week found the skeletons of 12 children hidden in vegetation at an abandoned building site after an eight-year-old boy found a skull and took it home.

While prosecutors at first believed that the killings were the work of satanic cults, which are known to operate in the city, other evidence seems to indicate that this was yet another incident of "social cleansing" by the paramilitary death squads which terrorise much of Colombia.

"We think that these were street children and suspected juvenile delinquents who were killed by an extermination group," said Luis Alberto Duque, the city's mayor.

Dismissal secures fortune for mogul

From Giles Whittell in Washington

A TOP film executive is to receive an estimated $30 million (£18.75 million) in compensation for being fired, confirming a trend towards failure as the quickest route to wealth in Hollywood.

Frank Biondi Jr, 53, already has $15 million from a previous sacking to add to the eight-figure payout he negotiated before being removed on Monday as chairman of Universal Studios. He joins a group of multimillionaires whose fortunes came from professional humiliatioo.

Last year, Mike Ovitz left the Walt Disney Company with stock options worth $130 million after a disastrous 14-month tenure there as president. This year, Jeffrey Katzenberg ended a court battle over his departure from the same studio in a settlement worth more than $100 million. Three years ago the head of the Time Warner group's music division, Doug Morris, was fired with $32 million.

"We'd like management to explain how this benefits us," a spokesman for a big institutional shareholder in Seagram, Universal's parent company, asked yesterday of the Biondi settlement.

One high-priced Hollywood lawyer argued that, like film stars, top showbusiness executives are rare, sought-after and adept at negotiating "exit plans". But there is no simple explanation for such payouts except greed, and no parallel in other industries.

WORLD IN BRIEF

French law tackles sport drug taking

Paris: The National Assembly passed a Bill giving France one of the world's strictest anti-doping laws in the wake of this year's Tour de France cycle race, which was thrown into chaos by drugs scandals (Susan Bell writes). Under the stringent new measure, the Ministry of Sport is to be given the right to raid premises and to order athletes to undergo drug tests. Anyone who is found guilty of supplying athletes with drugs will face up to seven years in prison and a fine of Frl million (£105,000).

$1bn global lottery

Geneva: Two thousand people will become millionaires on the first day of the next century in an international lottery to help the world's poor. The international Millennium Fund was set up in association with the International Federation of the Red Cross charity and the Red Crescent, its Islamic sister organisation. The organisers hope to raise $1 billionn or more from the lottery, which will be televised worldwide. *(AFP)*

US militants convicted

Billings: A federal jury found members of Montana's Freemen guilty of robbery and fraud, ending a saga which threw a spotlight on a new breed of militant anti-government group in the American heartland. Sentencing was set for March. The prosecution said conviction was just punishment for the Freemen, who in 1996 sweated through an 81-day armed confrontation with the FBI outside a fortified ranch. *(Reuters)*

Ice traps aid ships

Moscow: A Russian oil tanker and an atomic-powered icebreaker, sent to relieve 4,500 residents who are without heat in freezing temperatures on the Chukotsky peninsula in Arctic Russia, have become stuck in ice 40 miles away, Tass reported. The *Sovietsky Soyuz*, the most powerful ice-breaker in the world, has been unable to cut a path through the ice. *(AFP)*

Film cuts out Thais

Bangkok: Frustrated by official disapproval over its script, 20th Century Fox announced that it is dropping Thailand from plans to shoot a new version of *Anna and the King* starring Jodie Foster. Shooting for the remake of the classic films *Anna and the King of Siam* and *The King and I* will be moved to neighbouring Malaysia. *(AP)*

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Starr testimony upstaged by a sleepy sideshow

Eyelids droop as independent prosecutor makes his stand, writes **Damian Whitworth** in Washington

POOR Kenneth Starr was oblivious to what was happening behind him. At last the independent prosecutor had the chance to respond to the heap of criticism and abuse that has been poured on his head.

Seven television networks were transmitting every word he had to say about his investigation live and uninterrupted across the nation. But behind his left shoulder, those who were lucky enough to have a ringside seat at the historic event were not even listening.

They were asleep.

First, the eyelids of a large man in the row immediately behind the witness table started to droop, flutter briefly, then close.

His head nodded; he suddenly awoke — and then he succumbed once more.

Then the Asian man behind him went the same way. As he slumped to one side, a hunched, grey-haired man in the third row was also revealed: he was snoozing happily, like a tramp who had come in from the cold to watch the sentencing of traffic offenders at a municipal court.

For a man who has been vilified, and who is viewed negatively by almost two thirds of the American people, this was supposed to be the moment to put his case and, some Republicans hoped, get the impeachment process back on track.

The image could not have been worse — and one can only guess what effect it had on those slumped in their armchairs at home watching the proceedings.

Mr Starr, unaware, carried on reading his opening statement in clear, almost hypnotic tones. When John Conyers, the ranking Democrat on the committee, had torn into him in his opening remarks, Mr Starr had stared on unblinking, his head tilted upwards with an air of defiance. When he began his address to the House Judiciary Committee and the nation, he was totally confident.

‘The President could choose truth or he could choose deception’

Occasionally he would gesticulate, gently but firmly, with one hand to emphasise a point.

Mr Starr said that Mr Clinton had half a dozen opportunities to tell the truth about the Monica Lewinsky affair in the past eleven months.

"The President had to take a decision. He could choose truth, or he could choose deception. On all six occasions he chose deception."

Referring to President Clinton's deposition in the Paula Jones case, in which he said he had not had sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky, Mr Starr said: "No one is entitled to lie under oath simply because he or she does not like the questions, or because he believes the case is frivolous or financially motivated or politically motivated."

The independent prosecutor said that throughout his investigations, which began by inquiring into the failed Whitewater land deal, the White House had placed "road blocks and hurdles" in his path. Mr Starr, who has been painted as overzealous and politically motivated by Democrats, said he had expected criticism and that in high-profile cases such as this, would be damned whatever he did. "You must just do what you think is right."

It emerged yesterday that the committee is to widen its inquiry beyond the Lewinsky affair by calling other witnesses. Originally Henry Hyde, the chairman, said he would just hear Mr Starr.

Now he wants to cross-examine President Clinton's lawyer, Bob Bennett, and the presidential confidant, Bruce Lindsay, and wants a key document from the Justice Department laying out allegations about Democratic fundraising.

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

A passer-by makes a close anatomical inspection of the bronze elephant sculpture unveiled in the gardens of the United Nations in New York

Red-faced UN tries to cover up unruly member

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FRESH from its standoff with Iraq, the United Nations now finds itself confronted by another troublesome member. The latest international crisis revolves around a four-tonne bronze sculpture of an elephant — donated by Kenya, Namibia and Nepal for the gardens at UN headquarters — that boasts an enormous penis.

Almost 3ft in length, the organ nearly touches the ground between the elephant's legs. Officials were so shocked when they examined the gift before an unveiling ceremony on Wednesday that an aide to Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, recommended that the beast be castrated. "It will frighten the children," he exclaimed.

The beast was cast by a Bulgarian-born sculptor, Mihail Simeovov, on a trip to Kenya 18 years ago. Aided by 50 assistants, he tranquillised an elderly bull and spent two hours applying casting material before releasing it. While it was sedated, however, its penis extended. "Usually the genitalia are withdrawn and it is hard to tell a male from a female," a UN source said.

Hans Janitschek, chairman of the group that raised money for the project, said: "I received a call from the Ambassador from Nepal, who said, 'The penis is enormous. There has to be a surgical operation'."

The elephant won a reprieve, however, from Mr Annan himself. At the opening ceremony, the sculpture was tastefully surrounded by newly planted shrubs that hid its penis from the tourists visiting UN headquarters.

The UN is considering planting tall "elephant grass" as a permanent solution. "The sheer size of this creature humbles us," Mr Annan declared mischievously as he unveiled the gift. When asked if he would order surgery, the UN chief replied: "That's nature's way. I'm not going to tamper with nature."

Manhattan asks architect to repeat Bilbao masterpiece

BY JAMES BONE

THE Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, based in Frank Lloyd Wright's famous spiral building on Fifth Avenue, has quietly asked Frank Gehry to draw up plans for a new architectural wonder to be built on a spectacular site on the Manhattan waterfront.

The Los Angeles architect, who designed the Guggenheim's acclaimed titanium-clad branch in Bilbao, has begun producing preliminary drawings for what would be New York's first purpose-built museum since Marcel Breuer's Whitney in 1966.

The projected site is 15 acres on Pier 40, a former dock on the Hudson River that lies an equal distance from the downtown gallery district of SoHo and the burgeoning art world of Chelsea. Since taking over as director in 1987, Thomas Krens has expanded the museum in an effort to show its entire collection, adding branches in Berlin and SoHo as well as Bilbao. Further additions are under consideration in Paris, Salzburg and Venice.

Mr Gehry's stylishly curving building in Bilbao, which cost $100 million (£62.5 million), has attracted more that 1.4 million visitors since opening last year and been hailed as one of this century's most important works of architecture. The architect was first introduced to Mr Krens by Peter Lewis, the head of an Ohio-based insurance company who commissioned him to design a $30 million house.

Currently the chairman of the Guggenheim Foundation, Mr Lewis is reported to have promised substantial funding for the new project.

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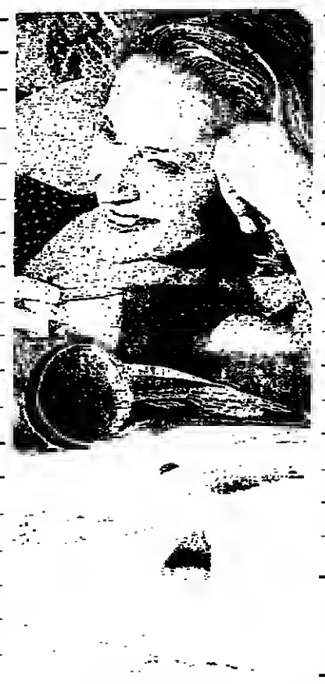

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B&Q

Meet the world's best loved welder

Iraq is dominated by a personality cult that betrays a huge and frightening ego, **Sam Kiley** writes

SADDAM HUSSEIN is a man of many talents: a loving family man, concerned social worker, welder, Kurdish chef, general, pilot, architect and blokeish buddy of the masses.

We know this because the polyglot Iraqi autocrat has an army of portrait painters who capture every pose imaginable, and some that are beyond comprehension.

According to artists based at the Saddam Arts Centre, a brown concrete eyesore in the centre of Baghdad, "between 50 and 60" painters work full-time on capturing his exploits on canvas. And that does not include the ceramic workers who have immortalised Saddam in 6ft-high shining monoliths on almost every street corner. "But there are only about five of us who have done more than 50 portraits. I've done more than 100," said Muhammad Ali Karim, who trained at the capital's academy of fine arts.

His 9ft by 6ft canvases of the President are usually ordered wholesale by ministries anxious to ingratiate themselves with he-who-must-be-obeyed. They sell for between £100 and £200.

Saddam has been seen only a few times in the flesh over the past two years. He prefers to maintain his hold over 20 million people with a personality cult that is designed to give the chilling impression he is capable of everything, or anything. Mr Karim's work shows his master in a benign state, laughing heartily from beneath a Bedu head-dress; poring over building plans and bouncing a small child on his knee, his Havana cigar plume mysteriously inoffensive to the smiling toddler.

Young followers visit Baghdad's Saddam Museum

Other painters capture a little more of the reality of the man. One portrait shows him taking notes from Arab women crouched at his feet. Tucked into the back of his trousers is a pistol, perhaps a reminder of the urban legend that he once lost his temper with a minister during a Cabinet meeting, and shot him dead.

Mr Karim said of the pictures: "Everybody wants one. Unions, factories, companies, workshops, private individuals — they like to donate them to a neighbourhood and hang them over the street."

Other works show Saddam taking time off from a busy schedule of country-running and cat-and-mouse charades with United Nations arms inspectors looking for his alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. He throws together a fry-up with soup in what looks like the kitchen of a caravan.

Welding is a favourite hobby. Every night the television shows an incoherent collage of his many talents, hotly broken up with welder stunts.

If a man's danger to the world were revealed by the size of his ego, Saddam, whatever military danger he might pose, must rank as having one of the most worrying personality disorders in the solar system. Not satisfied with portraits, murals and tiled effigies, he has scattered Baghdad with vast bronze statues of himself.

Many show him in his trademark salute, hand held above the shoulder, palm flat — a pose, diplomats say, he is capable of holding for so long during military parades that they have begun to suspect that it is a prosthesis.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam has also built scores of palaces all over the country, including several in Baghdad, visible from the River Tigris.

But perhaps the most revealing image of Saddam hangs in the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, the Jordanian capital. He stands, propped up by a single ski stick, his other hand leaning proudly against a tree as if he had just shot a wild boar. He wears mid-calf leather boots, a long fur collared coat, a Russian hat — and he bears an unmistakable likeness to Stalin.

JACK DABAGHIAN / REUTERS

A soldier of the US Army special forces makes a parachute jump from a Blackhawk helicopter in an exercise over the Kuwaiti desert yesterday. About 90 soldiers were involved in the exercise, which US spokesmen said was aimed at maintaining their combat skills but had nothing to do with the latest tension between Iraq and the UN.

The jumps, conducted in the desert near Ali al-Salem Air Base, went without a hitch, according to Major John Bullion, the company commander. *(AP)*

Smoking leaders' legacy catches up with Chinese

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

MAO smoked Great Wall cigars, and Deng Xiaoping lit up continually as he played cards. Now China is experiencing a catastrophic epidemic of smoking-related diseases.

Two surveys involving 1.25 million people in the world's leading tobacco-producing country show that up to 2,000 Chinese a day are now dying of smoking-related diseases. By 2050, if present trends continue, that could rise to about three million a year.

The two studies are the result of a long-term international collaboration between Oxford University, the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine in Beijing and Cornell University in the United States.

Two thirds of Chinese men start smoking by the age of 25, and three quarters of all Chinese men are smokers in a total population of 1.2 billion. Average per capita consumption rose from one cigarette a day in 1952 to ten in 1992, but appears to have stabilised.

In the West, smoking causes many heart-related deaths, but in China most such deaths are caused by respiratory diseases, the surveys indicate.

In London, Dr Alan Lopez of the World Health Organisation told a news conference: "In the West, cigarettes cause lots of heart attack deaths, while in China smoking causes unexpectedly large numbers of deaths from turberculosis, emphysema and stomach and liver cancer.

"Worldwide, the only really big causes of premature death that are growing rapidly are HIV and tobacco."

HIV is also a growing threat in China with about 300,000 confirmed cases.

Few Chinese women smoke and the number is falling even as smoking in men increases, according to the reports. However, trendy young women in Beijing like to be seen with cigarettes, apparently as a fashion accessory. Surveys show that two thirds of Chinese people think smoking does little or no harm.

Dr Zhengming Chen of Oxford University said the increase in tobacco consumption did not appear to be a result of promotion by cigarette companies, since smoking had been rising since the 1970s — before China allowed advertising.

The Government is taking some action. Fewer Chinese leaders are photographed smoking, most internal flights are smoking-free and tobacco advertising is banned in several cities. Airports have fuggy rooms set aside for smokers.

But taxes from tobacco remain an important source of government income. And Mao and Deng, after all, confirmed that even smokers may live to a ripe old age.

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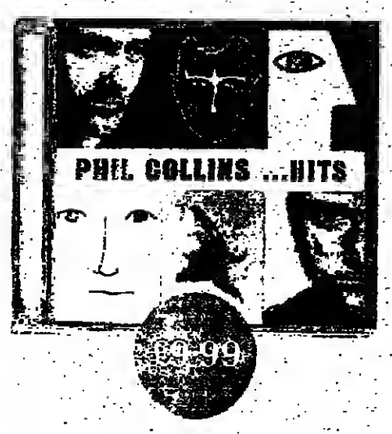

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Israelis finally agree to West Bank pullout

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE final obstacle to the first Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank in nearly two years was removed yesterday when the Cabinet voted by a narrow majority to approve the first stage of the new peace pact with the Palestinians.

After repeated delays caused by Islamic terrorist attacks and disputes over Palestinian plans for counter-terrorism, Israeli officials said that troops were to start handing over land to Palestinian control around the self-rule town of Jenin later today.

The first part of the three-stage pullback — totalling 13 per cent of the territory conquered in 1967 — will involve 2 per cent, or 44 square miles of the West Bank being transferred from sole Israeli control to joint jurisdiction with the Palestinians. A further 7.1 per cent or 160 square miles of the rugged terrain will be moved from joint jurisdiction to sole Palestinian control.

The bitter divisions which the Wye Plantation agreement of October 23 have opened within Israel's ruling right-wing coalition were illustrated by the historic vote which saw seven ministers in favour, five against and three abstaining.

Israel radio reported that two other ministers were on foreign trips, meaning that the pullback from land that many right-wing Jews believe is the biblical inheritance of the Jews (Judea and Samaria) secured support only from a minority of the 17-strong Cabinet.

The withdrawal will be accompanied by the opening of the first Palestinian airport in Gaza and the release of 250 Palestinian prisoners, the first batch of 750 due to be set free under the Wye terms.

Bickering about the types of prisoner to be released was continuing last night. Israel said that only 100 of the men would be security prisoners, the rest being ordinary criminals. This infuriated the Palestinians, who demanded that all 250 be security prisoners. "Do you think that Yassir Arafat went to Wye Plantation to free car thieves?" Ahmed Tibi, a senior Palestinian official, told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli officers and their Palestinian counterparts toured the areas of the northern West Bank from which Israel will withdraw after 32 years of occupation. No army bases or Jewish settlements will be dismantled during the pullback.

Yesterday a crowd of 5,000 jubilant Palestinians marched through the market town of Jenin — which was handed over to Mr Arafat in December 1995 — to celebrate. But Hamas, the Islamic militant group, issued a new threat of violence as a reminder that it planned to continue its bloody attempts to wreck the peace.

Avner Sinwani, a Jewish settler in the outpost of Ganim, said he would leave if the community were to be turned into a fortified enclave with watchtowers and barbed wire. "I do not think anyone will want to stay and raise children here."

Palestinian security chiefs in the West Bank town of Jenin examine Israeli maps showing the extent of the first stage of the army pullout

Habibie warns of descent to chaos

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

PRESIDENT Habibie of Indooesia said yesterday that democracy activists were bringing the country to the brink of destruction.

Mr Habibie spoke as demonstrations continued in the capital, including ooe by nuns, students and housewives. A second attempted to march on the home of the former President Suharto, demanding his arrest.

As they marched towards his house, protected by special forces and marines, they carried a banner reading: "We are not afraid of your weapons. Our weapon is truth."

Mr Habibie's statement demonstrates that a dead end has beeo reached between the three centres of power — the students, the extra-parliamentary politicians and the Government backed by the army.

The student movement and Amien Rais, the Muslim leader, appear to have decided to focus for now on the issue of the Suharto family's wealth.

British accord on arms research

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

BRITAIN and Israel are to collaborate over the development of new military technology in a sensitive arms research deal, the first of its kind.

The deal is seen in diplomatic circles as proof of how defence ties have warmed since 1994 when Britain ended the 12-year arms embargo that it imposed in protest at the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Ironically, that operation was masterminded by Ariel Sharon, recently appointed Foreign Minister. British and Israeli sources told the *Jewish Chronicle* in London that the agreement could be ready for signing next week when Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, is due to visit London. The accord is awaiting Foreign Office approval.

The deal is understood to cover research on naval high technology and the use of unmanned surveillance aircraft, a category of weapon in which Israel is regarded as a world leader. Unmanned "drones" are frequently deployed to assist Israeli forces who are fighting guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) in the occupied south of Lebanon.

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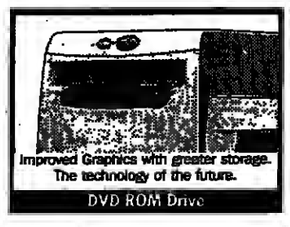

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Computer Active October 1998

Objects of desire

■ Tradition has it that the best-dressed fireplace wears a stocking at Christmas, and Tapisserie has some of the best. Its selection of hand-painted tapestry canvases can be painted to order and personalised with a name, favourite toys or hobbies. Prices start at £125. Tapisserie also offers a two-hour needlework class at £48 and a sewing service for those who prefer to have the work done for them (0171-581 2715).

■ Boden's first Christmas catalogue is brimming with sumptuous velvet cushions, silk ties, cashmere socks and the prettiest floral cotton wash bags. Available as a box bag, £25 (WR116), a triangular zip bag, £20 (WR115), or a bucket bag, £30 (WR114), they are all PVC-lined to prevent travel mishaps (0181-453 1535).

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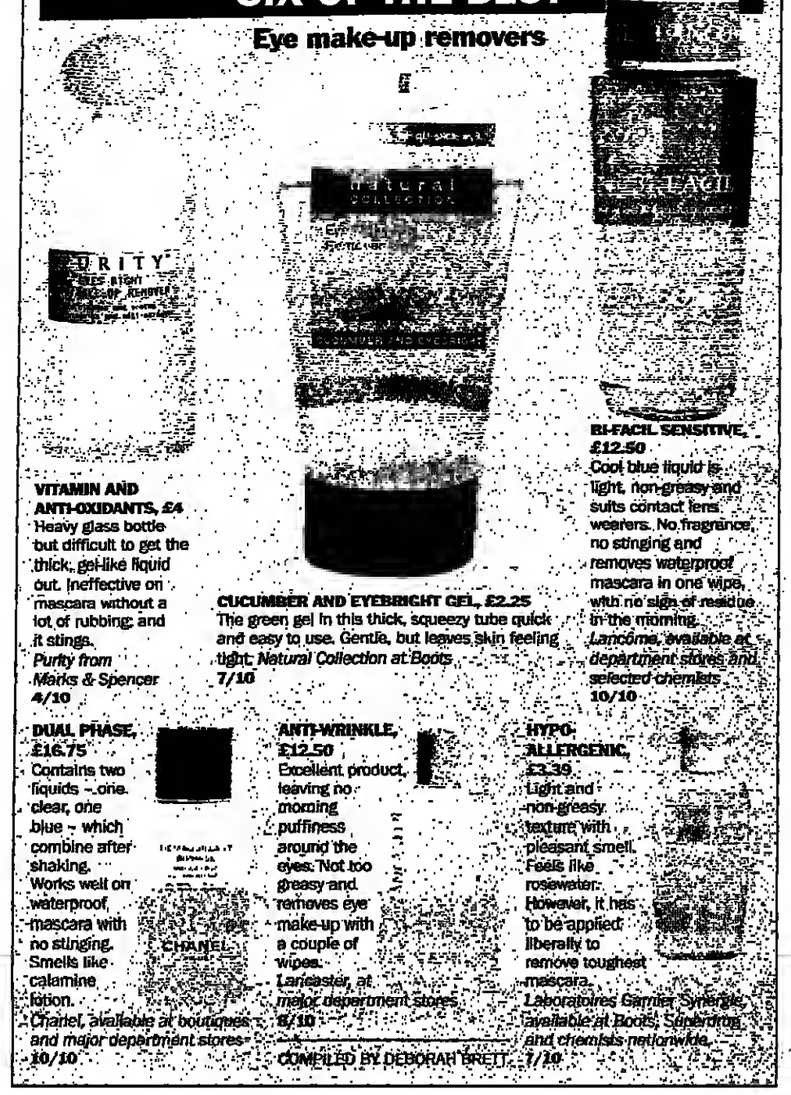


VITAMIN AND ANTI-OXIDANTS, £4
Heavy glass bottle but difficult to get the thick, gel-like liquid out. Ineffective on mascara without a lot of rubbing; and it stings.
Purity from Marks & Spencer
4/10

CUCUMBER AND EYEBRIGHT GEL, £2.25
The green gel in this thick, squeezy tube quick and easy to use. Gentle, but leaves skin feeling tight. *Natural Collection at Boots*
7/10

BI-FACIL SENSITIVE, £12.50
Cool blue liquid is light, non-greasy and suits contact lens wearers. No fragrance, no stinging and removes waterproof mascara in one wipe, with no sign of residue in the morning. *Lancôme, available at department stores and selected chemists*
10/10

DUAL PHASE, £16.75
Contains two liquids – one clear, one blue – which combine after shaking. Works well on waterproof mascara with no stinging. Smells like calamine lotion. *Chanel, available at boutiques and major department stores*
10/10

ANTI-WRINKLE, £12.50
Excellent product, leaving no morning puffiness around the eyes. Not too greasy and removes eye make-up with a couple of wipes. *Lancaster, at major department stores*
8/10

HYPO-ALLERGENIC, £3.39
Light and non-greasy texture with pleasant smell. Feels like rosewater. However, it has to be applied liberally to remove toughest mascara. *Laboratoires Garnier Synergie, available at Boots, Superdrug and chemists nationwide*
7/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

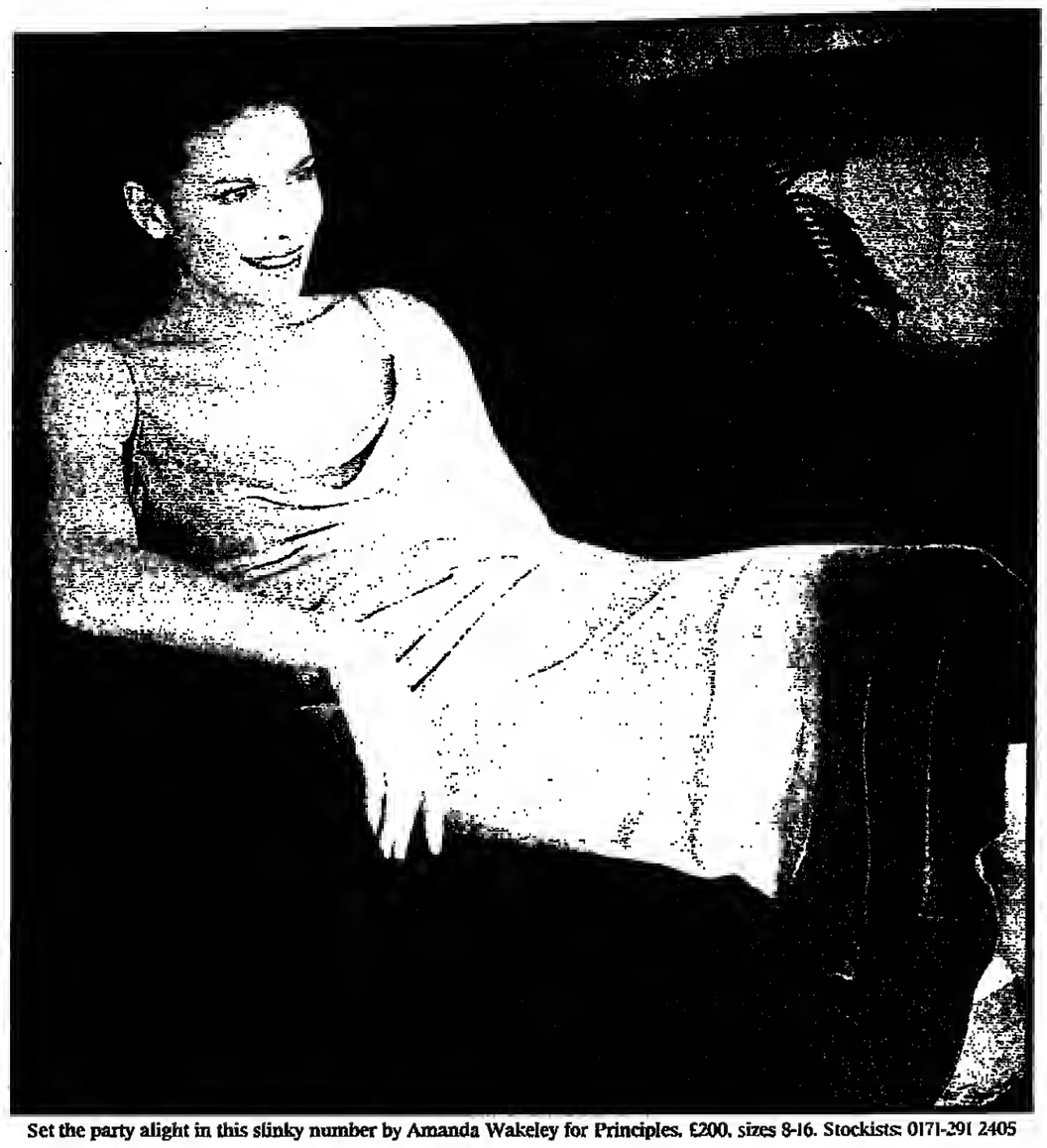
Every good frock deserves a party

Here comes the party season. The mantelpiece at home is crowded with invitations, my son and his nanny have graciously given permission for me to go out. All I need now is the right frock. Yet, somehow, though the wardrobe door can, with difficulty, be closed on all the devoré velvet and embroidered satin and glitter tweed in unorthodox pastels, hand-loomed by disapproving islanders who think that the Lurex is the work of the Devil, I find I haven't a thing to wear.

Don't be silly, I say to myself, looking through the crammed rails. Here is last year's brilliant Lacroix knock-off from Next, a vision of black Chantilly lace over a sapphire satin slip. Surely that would go round again? Not to mention the Warehouse silver lace and the little black velvet workhorse by Jasper Conran. Get yourself some high heels, a bag and some glittery hairslides, I tell myself (there are crimson velvet heels at L.K. Bennett that would stop traffic and enamelled hairclips at Angela Hale from about £25. Miss Selfridge does some pretty, pale blue enamel flowers with diamanté centres for £3 a pair, and Accessorize has an enticing range of beaded bags) and there will be no need for a new dress. Then the next thing I know, I am standing in the King's Road, nose pressed to a window behind which there glitters some enticing bit of frivolity, hand reaching for my chequebook.

For most of the year, I buy my clothes strictly according to Shirley Conran's brilliant rule of cost-per-wear — the $E=mc^2$ of fashion. Everything is bought on the strict understanding that it can be worn for at least a decade without going badly out of fashion.

Thus, for example, my bitter-chocolate cashmere sweater with the turn-back satin cuffs by Amanda Wakeley has retired from public appearances this winter because the colour is just too last year. But I don't for a moment regret buying it because I feel certain that its beautiful simplicity and general air of good breeding will be sufficient to justify the alarming amount I paid for it. If I am right, I shall be wearing it in my Bath chair when I am 80, by which time its cost-per-wear will be down to 0.001p or so.



Set the party alight in this slinky number by Amanda Wakeley for Principles. £200, sizes 8-16. Stockists: 0171-291 2405

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

To party frocks, however, this principle does not apply. Faced with the prospect of your own office party, your husband's office party, and drinks on Christmas Eve with the frightfully nice woman to whom you chat at the school gates on a daily basis, though you know her only as Lucy's Mummy, you can suddenly find yourself carrying on like Ivana Trump.

The only thing to do about this feeling is give in to it. Wanting a new frock for a party is a basic instinct, like hunter-gathering. Fighting it is against nature and will do you no good in the long run. You will go to a party in last year's dress, feeling cross, sink a large glass of chardonnay to raise your spirits, and then patronise the new marketing manager, and fail to recognise the headmistress of the school into which you have been trying for five years to get your daughter.

Better to go straight to the high street for some pretty wisp of stuff that emits a cheerful glitter and can be consigned to oblivion along with the decorations on January 6.

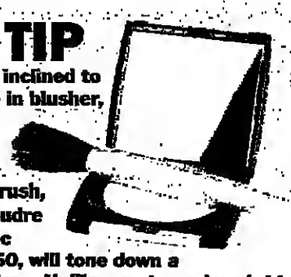
Morgan does the very thing — a cloth-of-silver shift for £49.99. Disobliging things have recently been written about Marks & Spencer, but its bronze and old rose devoré velvet shift looks far more expensive than its £60 price tag. Monsoon has a dressing-up box collection of beaded shifts in exquisite colours — dull gold beads on black; bronze on rose-red chiffon; black and silver flowers on grey ombré; pale gold trellis across creamy chiffon, and jet-beaded black lace over a gilt silk skirt. They look like little works of art, and start at about £120.

Karen Millen has dresses for sirens — holly-berry red with a swag of black bead roses, or an outrageous ruby corset dress with black embroidery. If you prefer a subtler approach, there is a long cream dress with crystal beads and a black velvet evening coat with a white fur trim and embroidery.

Principles has velvet column dresses of extravagant simplicity designed by Amanda Wakeley, from £130, and a dramatic black crepe dress with a side slit and heavy silver bugle beading for £100. I also like the subtle sparkle of the knee-length black glitter crochet shift, sprinkled with black sequins, £60.

But if, having practised investment dressing all year, you find that you can't break the habit, you might sink your Christmas money into Nicole Farhi's wonderful Prom Queen dress — a cloud of pale grey pleated silk organza with a fitted top and a swishy crinoline skirt. It costs £430 and demands to be worn with plenty of diamonds. If you're going to make an investment, it might as well be a serious one.

HOT TIP



■ For those inclined to over-indulge in blusher, a simple swipe with Lancôme's fibre-optic brush, £20, and Poudre Majeur Blanc Neige, £19.50, will tone down a colour overdose. Unlike most powders (which leave a chalky white residue), this product has tiny "microbubbles" that give the skin a matt finish, reflecting light to give a soft, golden glow. It can be used on the T-zone and cheekbones, and to highlight the brow, neck and shoulders (but never under dark circles). Available from leading department stores and selected chemists nationwide.

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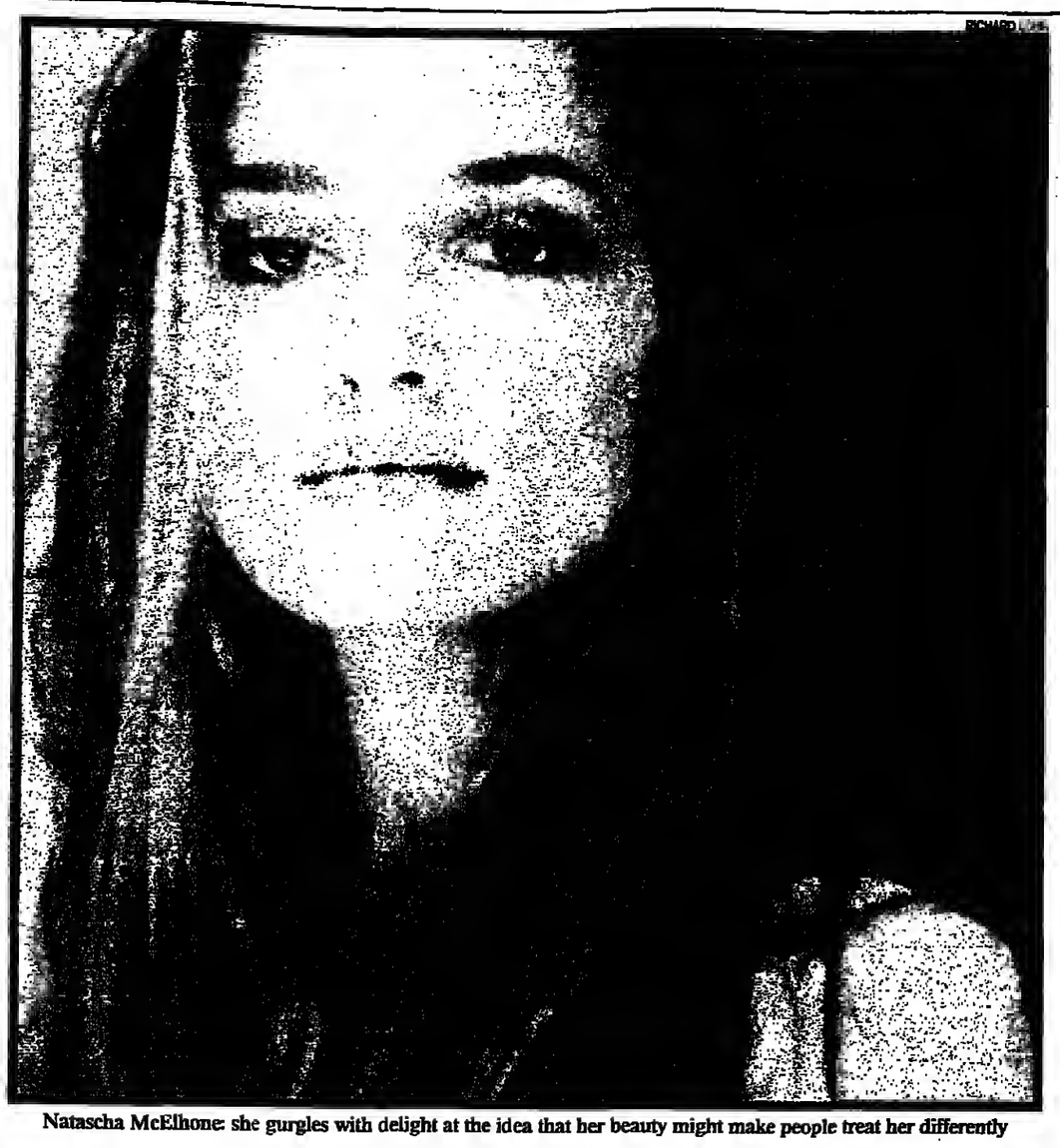

Natascha McElhone: she gurgles with delight at the idea that her beauty might make people treat her differently

I was the most tasteless little girl

Natascha McElhone is Britain's newest Hollywood star. Interview by **Vanora Bennett**

She looks somehow familiar. But the understated Londoner who drifts into an understated Italian restaurant in Notting Hill is subtly unlike the Natascha McElhone you expect from her screen roles.

This woman is worlds away from Sylvia, the wholesome, all-American girl pined for by Jim Carrey in *The Truman Show*. Nor is she anything like Deirdre, the gritty and enigmatic Belfast blonde in combat boots whose job in *Ronin* is to co-ordinate a heist.

Today's Natascha McElhone is willowy and carefully anonymous: her accent is British neutral. A hat covers her waist-length blonde hair. When she shrugs herself out of a long brown coat, all that is revealed is more of the same elegant but unflamboyant brown.

The actor's ability to retreat behind the greasepaint and emerge a different person is something she works hard to maintain. "As an actor, the one thing I have is to keep my own true identity hidden," she says. "If I reveal it then I'm limiting the possibilities of what I can play. The less one knows about an actor, the more plausible it is that you could pull off any role."

McElhone's London persona — she is newly married to a plastic surgeon and lives in Notting Hill — is articulate, amusing, sophisticated, self-aware and self-deprecating. She gurgles with delight at the idea that her beauty might make people treat her differently. ("God, no. I wish!") She wolfs down a pudding after a hefty main course with an unstarlet-like appetite.

She has been certain all her life that she had to be an actress. "I can never remember wanting anything else. It's just something I grew up with. I don't know where it came from, there's no acting in my family. School was purgatory, just waiting time."

McElhone grew up with her mother, Noreen Taylor, and stepfather Roy Greenslade, both journalists — her parents separated when she was two and she uses her mother's maiden name. Her family supported her acting without making it a major issue, she says, and there was never any question of her going to a stage school.

> 'Making movies is probably just like it is in an office'

"God forbid. My mother would never have let me do that, though I probably wanted to. I think I was the most tasteless child imaginable — I liked lots of, you know, pink frilly things."

She believes that what she mockingly calls her "nut rissole" upbringing helped. "My brother was never given any guns and I was never given any dolls. There was no sexual stereotyping, any of that sort of thing. But I think that was all quite good.

"Both my brother and I think it had an impact, having the freedom of not having to behave like a little girl or a little boy — it being perfectly OK for him to burst into tears or me to beat him up if I wanted to. And maybe that led me to freedom of expression."

Beneath her charm there's a stillness and serenity about McElhone. Is this an intrinsic quality or does it stem from the happiness of a person for whom everything is going well? She is modest about her apparently effortless rise towards stardom in the past two years.

Since James Ivory of Merchant Ivory picked her out — from a theatre cast playing Shakespeare in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre — for her first big film role in *Surviving Picasso*, the 27-year-old actress has gone from strength to strength. She has acted opposite male stars so illustrious that the list reads like a Hollywood *Who's Who*: Anthony Hopkins, Harrison Ford, Brad Pitt, Jim Carrey and, in *Ronin*, Robert De Niro.

"James (Ivory) is like my fairy godmother," she says. "At the time I think I was fairly blasé about it. I was like, 'Oh, he wants me to do a film. That's nice.' It's only when I've gone on and seen how hard it is and how competitive, how many people are up for each role, that I realise what a massive risk he took."

She shrugs off any suggestion that making movies is glamorous. "It's probably just like it is in an office. It's the same infrastructure, the same human behaviour, isn't it? It's people being in conflict or in harmony, being in a bad or a good mood, work going well or badly. There's nothing different about it except that you are creating illusions."

She is enthusiastic about the car chases, gun-toting and wild sports that *Ronin* gave her the chance to try. "It was terrifying, completely and utterly. Very little acting required. But fun. You know, thrilling, racy, your heart's going *b-dong, b-dong, b-dong* and you kind of love it and hate it at the same time — and you're dying for it to end, but when it does you're like "oooh, can we do it one more time?"'

Whatever part comes next for her, McElhone radiates fascination with acting's games with the unknown. Describing watching her brother, the actor Damon McElhone, at a recent stage performance, she says with wonder: "It was the strangest feeling. I now know what it must be like for my family seeing me on film or on stage. My brother came on stage and I thought, 'That's him! I know him! . . . but I don't. I don't know what he's doing and I don't know what he's about to do. He's someone else.'"

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MAN ON TOP

JOE JOSEPH

With the world teetering on the brink of at least six ugly new wars, it seems a poignant moment to relay my own taste of army life — of being huddled among panicky crowds, deafened by the din of confused voices, made nauseous by the stench of sweat in the air. This was in my local high street last Saturday.

Of course, I couldn't swear that those rowdy, sweaty people were British soldiers in civilian dress. But it would certainly help to explain the recent swell in high street populations if the Army *has* begun hiring out underemployed soldiers as part of its new commercial strategy to earn money in peacetime.

Look at the mysteriously large crowds that fill the new coffee bars springing up across the country. Every retail site that now falls vacant is shuttered up for two weeks before emerging from its chipboard pupa as a Starbucks or a Coffee Republic or one of the other new chain cafés which — because they know how to use an espresso machine — can be relied on to serve you a coffee that is consistently more expensive than what you would normally pay.

One minute there was a rundown grocery store on this very site, the sort of place where you'd buy food only if you were trying to poison a relative who had named you as a beneficiary in his will. In ten years of walking past this store, you never saw a customer in there. Then it reopens as a coffee bar and from day one, boom! It's bursting with people. *Where do all these new customers come from?* Have they suddenly discovered a raging thirst for cappuccino? ("Darling, switch off *Richard and Judy*, we're off to Starbucks. In fact, from now on we're *always* going down to the high street for our elevenses.")

You can only assume that these coffee bars are so anxious about appearing unpopular that they employ extras to fill the room. That's where the Ministry of Defence comes in. The Army, seeking profitable ways to diversify its activities so as to ward off further personnel cutbacks (the Territorial Army is the latest casualty) must be hiring out squaddies as crowd-fillers.

It makes a lot of sense, especially when you study the Army's other diversification proposals. I'm referring particularly to plans by Porton Down, the MoD's germ-warfare laboratory, to produce cosmetics for civilians. One of its prize products is an anti-wrinkle cream derived from one of the world's deadliest biological agents, botulinum toxin (sales pitch: "Declare war on wrinkles with our Instant Face Nuker. Note: keep out of reach of children, pregnant women and enemies of Nato. Should any ointment fall into enemy hands, wash your own hands thoroughly of all involvement. Gas masks not included").

Scientists swear that if you use botulinum toxin in teensy quantities, it merely suppresses the cells that cause wrinkles rather than killing you. Rob Walker, who runs Porton Down's new science park, says: "We have to make things that are realistic in the commercial world. The mindset you need to approach a supermarket is very different from the mindset you need to approach a military customer." (Walker's colleagues probably learnt this the hard way. Porton Down official: "We guarantee to wipe out a supermarket full of customers within three minutes." Supermarket manager: "I don't know how long you've been involved in consumer retailing, but even our supermarket doesn't treat its customers that badly").

Another exciting commercial sideline that the Army is considering is breeding pheasants. It hit on this idea after hearing anecdotes from country sportsmen about how pheasants that had suffered direct hits from a shotgun simply carried on flying. Research funded by the MoD has now found that the reason pheasants can withstand such shots is that the spines of their feathers are constructed in a way that enables them to absorb much of the energy of a bullet. The Army now thinks that pheasant feathers could inspire a new generation of bullet-proof jackets.

The irony is that not only are these enterprising initiatives making the Army more cost-effective, they are benefiting Britain's security, too, by destabilising our enemies' espionage networks. Veteran foreign spies are being sacked by their bosses for inventing fanciful field reports ("You expect me to believe that Britain's SAS is spending its time testing moisturisers and breeding game birds? You're fired!").

Very soon, even the lyrics of the Victorian music-hall song will have to be rewritten to keep up with the Army's changing priorities. The words learnt by rookies will be changed to: "We're all trained to fight, but by jingo if we can't/ We'll gloss our lips, we'll rest our Brens, and build a face-cream plant."

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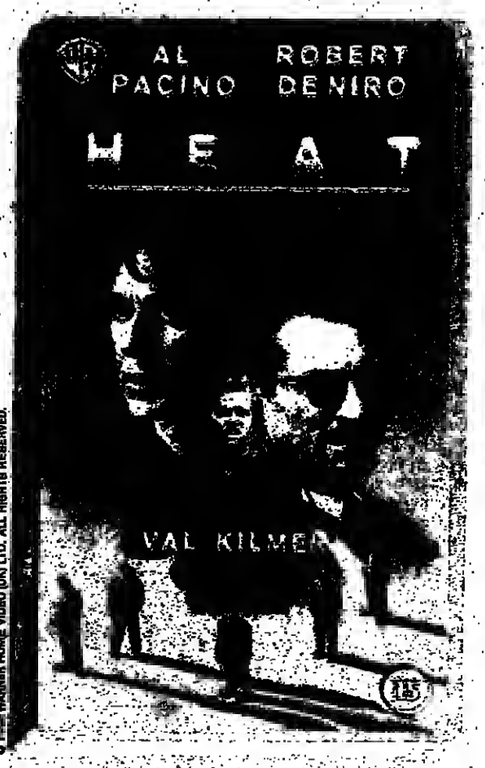

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Why Blair is going soft on EMU

Mary Ann Sieghart lays bare Labour's ulterior motives

Is Tony Blair warming to the euro? He would deny it, and insist that the Government's policy has not changed. But his mood seems to be changing and that is more important. The danger is that he could not only do the wrong thing but do it for the wrong reasons.

If the Prime Minister wanted Britain to join the single currency because he was convinced that the economy would rapidly deteriorate outside the system, I would argue with his analysis but at least accept that his decision had been honestly reached. Instead, he is in danger of being seduced by EMU for reasons that are less to do with economics and more to do with political strategy, not just overseas but also at home.

First, the European dimension. Yesterday Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, visited Gordon Brown. Mr Blair has already met the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, and seems to have been less than impressed. Herr Schröder is still nervous and new, and is in thrall to the tougher and more left-wing Herr Lafontaine.

This leaves a vacuum where the leadership of Europe ought to be. And it is one that Mr Blair would be happy to fill. It may seem odd to us, who still see the Prime Minister as something of a novelty, but in just 18 months, he has already become an elder statesman in Europe. Mr Blair has been in office for longer than his counterparts in the other three big countries — Germany, France and Italy — and he is in a stronger position domestically than any of them.

> Already Blair has become the elder statesman of Europe

Within the European Union, such seniority means something. Like a committee whose members are constantly coming to the end of their term and being replaced, it is possible to move quickly up the European hierarchy. Without Helmut Kohl, there is no undisputed leader from any of the big countries. And the smaller countries can never hope to be in charge.

Meetings of the Council of Ministers, where the prime ministers gather, are important psychologically. They allow heads of government to mix with their peers. At home, no one is equal to a prime minister. People pander to them, and colleagues tend to be either obsequious or plotting. But when prime ministers get together abroad, they can open their hearts, complain about their Cabinets, share problems and jokes, and give each other useful advice.

So it is not surprising that Mr Blair should feel, in the company of these prime ministers, both comfortable and, by now, confident. But he also knows that, if he wants to be leader of their gang, he has to sign up to the group's passwords and customs. And that means cultivating a genuine enthusiasm for monetary union and the economic and political integration that must go with it.

The Prime Minister may be tempted into making ever stronger declarations of intent until, eventually, nothing short of EMU membership will suffice. If he resists, he could be pressurised into all sorts of other compromises in order to maintain his "leadership". For instance, the manifesto drafted by Mr Brown for the tt socialist finance ministers includes moves to harmonise taxation, which would, at a stroke, destroy an important part of Britain's competitive advantage.

Mr Blair is in danger of falling into the trap set by the Foreign Office for all prime ministers: that influence equals national interest. We have to agree to the Maastricht treaty/join the euro/have a common defence policy (substitute as necessary) because otherwise we will lose influence in Europe. And maximising influence is the chief goal of diplomats. But what if the sacrifice necessary to gain this influence is harmful to the national interest? Britain might have less influence outside the single currency but still be better off overall. It is the job of the Prime Minister to assess that balance and to recognise that the Foreign Office has vested interests like any other government department.

But if events in Europe are coaxing Mr Blair into trading interest for influence, so are events at home. Last week's widening of co-operation with the Liberal Democrats is another step towards what is clearly Mr Blair's ultimate goal: to make the Lib Dems a non-competing sister party, like the CSU is to the CDU in Germany.

Those two parties are very similar ideologically, though the CSU is, if anything, a little further to the Right. The CDU is the senior partner, but it gives free rein to the CSU in Bavaria, where the bigger party fields no candidates.

Such an arrangement could be arranged here too, where very little now separates new Labour from the Lib Dems: there are differences of emphasis — on civil liberties, for instance — but far fewer than between new Labour and old. Only two major policy distinctions remain: PR for Westminster, and Europe.

If Labour were to allow the Lib Dems to stand unopposed in selected constituencies, the centre party would no longer need proportional representation: it would win the extra parliamentary seats it craves without it. PR is no more than a means to an end.

But what about Europe? The Lib Dems are gung-ho for the single currency and happy to see further European integration. Mr Blair will insist that his views on the euro have not been influenced by any desire to court the Lib Dems. But he cannot be unaware that leadership of a newly harmonious Centre Left, in Britain as well as in Europe, would be a happy by-product of a greater enthusiasm for EMU.

Dead in the centre

Our small towns are sad at heart. Planners should look abroad for ideas

Simon Jenkins

Newbury is bypassed at last. A mighty river of concrete is, as of now, carrying 32-tonne juggernauts far from the ramparts of the old town. The glades of Kennet and the heights of Donnington may echo to the roar of internal combustion, but the lanes of downtown Newbury thrill to the songthrush and the Berkshire burr. The local council has pedestrianised the town centre. A hundred million pounds of taxpayers' money has bought Newbury peace.

Just for the record, Newbury could have been pedestrianised long ago. The new bypass is its second. A previous one was built in the 1960s with up-to-date "roundabouts" to slow the through traffic, such being the fashion of the day. That bypass could, at modest cost, have been upgraded. But roads engineers must eat. A Tory Treasury had £100 million to burn and countryside in need of development, so why pay less? The latest bypass will become as congested at the old one, but I doubt if any more road will be built. Newbury was the highpoint of demand-led motorway building. If one day it becomes a seething, belching mass of coagulating metal, nobody will care. By then ministers will be travelling by helicopter. Car drivers will be as neglected as Charing Cross commuters.

I am more interested in the fate of Newbury. Small towns have long been Britain's pride and joy. Most big cities were ruined in the 1970s and 1980s, but have the critical mass for regeneration. The current revival of inner Newcastle, Glasgow and Birmingham is a wonder to behold. They have their lottery grants and their lobbies, as the countryside has its subsidies and marches on London. Small towns have no champions. Their streets decay with cut-price stores or are torn apart for crude mini-malls, frantic to compete with out-of-town hypermarkets. They either retain traffic in the hope of passing trade, or exclude it in the hope of pedestrian uplift. Whitehall's obsession with more housing in the countryside has left their plots vacant and their upper floors empty.

I love small towns. There is no England more utterly pleasant than Devizes or Ludlow or Beverley or Whitby. They combine the diversity born of size with the intimacy of smallness. Fictional Barchester, Middlemarch and Casterbridge were of a scale in which lives and emotions could be richly entangled. Turner's painting of Stamford showed the bustle of the Great North Road arriving to excite a sleepy provincial high street. These towns have been emasculated by the past quarter century. Most have, like Newbury, been granted arterial bypass. But in many cases the heart has stopped beating. You can pedestrianise Chesterfield or King's Lynn or Darlington. But you cannot bring them back to life if the planners have sucked out their commercial blood. Walk through the centre of these places of an evening and the only sound is of silence.

The British used to think they were good at modern town planning, partly because they invented it. Foreigners were either too poor or too corrupt or too vulgar to know how to conserve the character of settlements. Any British traveller knows that this is no longer true. I found myself last week in Mexico, in the town of Guanajuato (pop. 100,000). This Spanish colonial gem was built in the 17th and 18th centuries along the sides of a deep ravine. Its core holds an ancient university, a cathedral, an opera house and a series of shady plazas. The town is prosperous. Its student fraternities have a charming custom of wandering the streets at night in medieval costume, serenading the townspeople. There are virtually no tourists.

Two decades ago, a Mayor of Guanajuato with a taste for civil engineering decided to remove through traffic from the centre by converting an old riverbed under the town into a maze of tunnels. The result is an underground road network surely unique in the world, as if London's Central Line carried not trains but cars. Stop-off points lead to stairs to the surface, where streets are for buses and deliveries alone. The result is one of the busiest and most attractive town centres I know, packed day and night with promenaders. Guanajuato's Spanish façades beam down on them, reminiscent of a Spain that must have vanished with the Civil War. Today the place ranks with Perugia and Salzburg among the world's most glorious small towns.

The familiar British response is to dismiss all this as the charm of fine weather, poor residents who have no cars, and a local "sombrero" culture. This is rubbish. The pedestrianised town centres of northern Europe are cold, wet and rich. They are crowded with people who own as many cars as do the British. Nor do such streets depend on tourists. Their success lies in the meticulous planning of traffic, land use, building design and public space. Above all, it lies in the regulation of development in the surrounding countryside.

British planning discarded town maintenance as ruthlessly as did Los Angeles half a century ago. Its goal has been car-based settlement, whose apotheosis is Milton Keynes. For two decades, planning has been directed at depopulating towns and populating countryside. This culminated in Lord Ridley of Liddesdale's notorious green light for out-of-town shopping, housing and caravan parks, and the demand-led policy of John Gummer and John Prescott for countryside estates. In a new collection of essays, *Town and Country* (edited by Anthony Barnett and Roger Scruton), Mr Gummer nowhere suggests that demand be constrained by price.

Big cities can survive suburban shopping malls and sprawling housing estates. Small towns are murdered by them. Cities can rely on students, office workers, flat-dwellers and tourists. Small towns have few of these. They were formed as self-contained communities, of a few thousand people interdependent for most everyday services. Stripped of food shops, clothes shops, bookshops, restaurants, cinemas and the associated jobs and cashflow, a small town's other attractions are as nothing. The ring of supermarkets permitted in the fields round ancient Chichester has sucked money from its centre like a reverse vortex. The town is under economic siege. The pennants of Tesco and Sainsbury flutter in menacing array beyond its walls, as they do round half the small towns of England.

As long as English towns lie depressed and partly empty, there is no conceivable justification for spoiling what remains of the countryside round them, merely to appease housebuilder donors to party funds. Such planning is crass. Nor are towns saved merely by removing through traffic. People will use towns only if they retain their commercial magnetism.

Newbury is not a second-homers' delicatessen, like neighbouring Hungerford. It is a coherent settlement, built since the 16th century on the old Bath Road by the old bridge over the River Kennet. It has a fine high street, church, park and town hall. But it cannot survive without people living and working in its centre. It needs the vitality of an evening life, of Hay-on-Wye in festival week, of Appleby during the fair — of Perugia or Guanajuato every night of the year.

The best-managed towns are those whose charm not only predates the motor car but postdates it. Cars are a brief folly of domestic transport. They offer the illusion that people can all enjoy the space and privacy of the countryside and the variety of the town, each supplied at either end of a strip of tarmac. The Government had only to supply the tarmac. This vision could survive only as long as cars were minority possessions. Today the tarmac clogs up. I believe that towns will eventually reassert their attraction to country people, but only after the countryside has been developed, congested and ruined.

The small towns of Europe (and Mexico) have succeeded in passing from a pre-motorised to a post-motorised state of grace, without having to pass through this purgatory of "market adjustment". They have not been enslaved to the rural myth. They have not been re-engineered for the age of the car, only to be re-engineered again, like Newbury, for its departure. Small towns are not the settlements of the past, but of the future. They work. Or at least they can, abroad.

Philip Howard

■ And the People's High Priest spake unto the Peers

Then, Verily, the Lord declared unto the Commons People and unto the People's High Priest, Tony Blair, Five times have ye sent up to me your accursed European Elections Bill, even as many times as Benjamin's portion was greater than any of the other portions. And five times have I sent it back to you, yea, with my emendations. When will ye ever learn, O ye froward and naughty generation, which art as deaf as the adder that creepeth upon its belly to Jim Naughtie in the Dawn Wilderness of the *Today* programme?

2. Accordingly the People's High Priest summoned the Assembly of the People by blowing upon all the silver pagers and answerphones made of rams' horns at Millbank Towers: and when the whole Assembly was gathered all together, with its Spin-Physicians and television cameras armed and ready for the fading bongs of the *News at Ten* trumpets, the High Priest Tony Blair spake unto the People in his wrath and said:

3. First, the good news: I have beaten the Ancient Hereditary down to Ten Commandments of the Lords. Next the bad news: adultery is still one of them. Next the inexplicable news: the Lords in their folly have chosen the open-list system for the Lottery of the Europeanites. But who are these Peers and Pharisees suddenly to become so tender for the elect of the People? For, lo, they are descended from the most tightly closed list of all, being either descendants of the King's Mistress unto the eleventh and twelfth generations, or cronies of the Philistines.

4. Moreover, democracy is by no means a Salient Feature of Holy Writ. For in the days of our fathers My People cast their votes by lot, having done a lot of praying first. By lot they discovered a candidate. By lot they chose their MEPs. Yea, by lot they ordered the courses of men in office and decided a controversy.

5. And when Judas Iscariot of Old Labour in Judaea went disastrously off-message and was terminally deselected from the party list, behold his successor was chosen from a party shortlist. Two names were put forward: Joseph, who was known as Barsabbas, and Matthias. They drew lots and the lot fell on Matthias, who was then assigned a place in the Cabinet.

6. That was a form of AV with a party-list concocted in an incense-filled room. And only under AV could we achieve the scripturally correct results that the many that are first in the open lists shall be last, and the last shall be first. The only example of PR with an open list for the People to choose from elected Barabbas, who was a robber. And he is not a happy precedent.

7. Moreover, Children of the People, ye know full well that the ancient voting systems of our fathers known as Urim and Thummim were by no means one-man-one-vote or OMOV in the modern Scriptural correctitude. In the original Hebrew, these words mean "shining" and "perfect". But according to St Jerome "doctrine" and "judgment". However-so-beit, they were worn in the breastplate of the High Priest at election time, and seem to have had much the same function as black balls and white balls among the Tribes of the Athenaeumites and the Savilites.

8. Therefore, O Children of the People, do ye desire a mighty man of valour, honest, straight-talking High Priest? Or do ye want me? For truth is what ye get from a politician who hath given up all hope of becoming High Priest.

9. Then all the People murmured, and imagined a vain thing. Notwithstanding, they voted as the Whips told them. As bloody usual.

10. And the Lords responded with a loud voice. Murmur us no plausible murmurations, thou High Priest. For we have no time for PR, ATV, STV, PVC, STD or others of your Urim and Thummim, beloved by psephological nudniks and nerds. It ill behoveth us to stand up for popular elections. First past the post has until now never been our slogan, unless we were given the start of the generations of Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah. But nothing in our hereditary lives shall become us as our leaving it. And we shall go down with guns blazing. On a matter of principle. Which is as rare a creature as a Phoenix in the desert of politics.

Hey man!

A GIANT mushroom is the latest spiritually uplifting exhibit to be lined up by those whizzos at the Millennium Dome. The 40-metre edifice is expected to be chosen as the centrepiece of the New Age Rest Zone (you know, pungent cigarettes, peace signs and deep chilling). It has been designed by Anish Kapoor (right), a trendy sculptor, with "ambient" acid house music by Brian Eno (left), the electronic pop maestro. The Dome confirms that this is one of the designs being given serious consideration. Kapoor has been encouraged by some big hats at the project. Phillip Gumudjian, Dome architect, is thought to have pushed the sculptor to come up with a design.

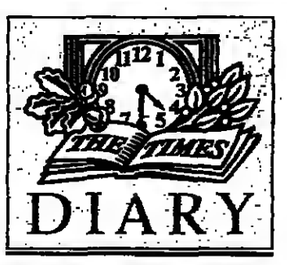
Gumudjian used to work with Lord Rogers of Riverside, who is on the creative review group that decides the Dome's contents. Rogers's architectural practice has just placed a Kapoor sculpture outside its new law courts in Bordeaux.

I just hope the project does not face the same fate as the Dome's sexually confused statue. It began life as an hermaphrodite but after much soul-searching metamorphosed into Britannica, a woman. Then it returned to its hermaphroditic phase before finally emerging, poor thing, as a man and a woman joined at the hip covered in children's faces.

● *ERIC SYKES, opening in Sir Peter Hall's production of Alan Bennett's* Kafka's Dick, *finds the title tasteless: he prefers* Kafka's Inside Leg Measurement.

Holy retreat

LORD RUNCIE has been thrown out of church for not being religious enough. The former Archbishop of Canterbury was on a pilgrimage to Mount Athos, home to monastic Serbs who are so orthodox that they barred females (even animals) for 1,000 years.



Donald Reeves, the old Red Rector who now writes for *The Tablet*, accompanied him to the "monastic republic" where they were worshipping. After venerating icons, "an elderly monk, probably the abbot, glared, shaking his arms to indicate we were not wanted," says Reeves.

Undaunted, they stayed. Then the monk came up to Runcie "and indicated we were to leave". The Brits put the inhospitality down to Serbian high spirits.

● *BOY David, male model, Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former Liberal leader, whose taste in strident, multi-tonal shirts is legendary (he has a special weakness for those natty ones with white collars and blue stripes) has agreed to pose in the catalogue of the makers, Charles Tyrwhitt. Steel, pictured in his sartorial prime, right, poses in "Bengal Sky". "We use our customers not professional models," says a Tyrwhitt man. "We didn't pay him." Very wise.*

Dinner duo

WITH whom would you least like to have dinner? I puzzled on this the other evening as I strolled through the Commons. Sir Brian Mawhinney, that cheerless Ulsterman who led the Tories to electoral annihilation, was dining *à deux* with Mr Terence Wogan, whose penetrating ruminations interrupt Cliff Richard records on Radio 2.

Does this herald an excursion into light "entertainment" for Sir Brian? Or a mayoral dash for our Tel? "No, no," says Sir Brian. "I look forward to our next dinner."

● *A TASTY little gift awaits Jack Cunningham, courtesy of that nice John Prescott. Finding himself in downtown Buenos Aires, John-Boy headed for a restaurant and ordered a giant cut of prime beef with lashings of Specified Bovine Offal (ie, a T-Bone steak). After wolfing it down he declared that he wanted the bone gift-wrapped: "It will make a nice gift for Jock" — who brought us the ban.*

Moved out

A JOLLY watering hole, where peers swig gin and grumble that they are growing too blind to shoot grouse, is being axed by Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the Lords. She is replacing it with a "Labour Resource Unit", which sounds straight out of a Philip Gould manual and not much fun.

In the process, Lord McIntosh of Haringey has been turfed out of his study. The Deputy Chief Whip was crestfallen, but the thin controllers of new Labour have clearly got to him: "I am certainly not unhappy," he murmurs from his delightful new broom cupboard.

● *A SPAT has broken out between Nina Simone and a charity over a bar bill during the diva's sojourn in the London Hilton. The Cancer Research Campaign (patron: Lady Hurd of Westwell, Dougie's missus) blamed Nina (above) for a £2,500 bill while here to perform for the charity. It also said she was rude on stage. "She was a nightmare," said a campaign type. Not so, says Nina. "She paid her bill. It was an MC who told the audience to be quiet, not Nina," says her agent. "It was my bill that couldn't be paid. A friend picked it up."*

JASPER GERARD

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هكذا من الأصل

LORDS AND PEOPLE

A fight on principle that must continue

The confrontation between Lords and Commons has revealed disturbing features of this Government's attitude to power. In opposition, new Labour campaigned for devolution and decentralisation. In office, its tendency is to centralise and control. Instead of being attacked for rejecting the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, the House of Lords should be thanked for performing two services. It highlighted an erosion of voters' rights, and revealed the need for an independent second chamber, able and brave enough to criticise a Government that enjoys a massive majority in the House of Commons.

Although the Government lost its Bill, it claims to have won a strategic victory. By defying the will of the elected chamber, ministers chant, the House of Lords has strengthened the Government's case for removing the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper Chamber. This is a tactic designed to confuse. The substance of this week's debate must be disentangled from the future of the Upper House.

The House of Lords has not abused its power. Peers considered that stripping voters of their right to vote for the candidate of their choice, not just for a party, impaired democracy. Since the Government failed to make a convincing case for closed lists, peers were entirely justified in voting against the Bill five times. Voters at the general election did not know that the Labour Party intended to introduce closed lists. Labour said in its manifesto that it "long supported a proportional voting system for election to the European Parliament": the words "closed lists" did not appear.

By making a stand on this constitutional principle, the hereditary peers were not unwittingly signing the death warrant to their voting rights. They know that the Prime Minister holds the pen, and that the Bill to remove them from the Upper Chamber will be published in next week's Queen's Speech. In the light of the reaction of Tony Blair and his Cabinet to peers' sound and well-reasoned arguments, the thinking behind closed voting has come to appear all the more alarming. And instead of bolstering the Government's plans for the reform of the House of Lords, this episode has exposed their weakness.

The right of hereditary peers to vote in the second chamber cannot be defended. On this, virtually everyone — including Viscount Cranborne, the Conservative Leader in the Lords — agrees. At issue is what will replace the hereditary peers, and how a new arrangement would guarantee the second chamber's independence. Once the hereditary peers have been expelled, the second chamber will, for the time being at least, be dominated by political appointees. Rejecting charges that the Lords would then be "Mr Blair's poodle", the Government has promised a royal commission to look at further reforms. Yet the Prime Minister's attack on the House of Lords for frustrating "the will of the democratically elected House of Commons" will heighten concern that his intention is indeed as the Tories suggest: to emasculate the second chamber. The whole point of the Upper House is that it must be able to review, scrutinise, criticise and amend government legislation. Would Mr Blair allow a reformed second chamber to challenge government legislation?

In opposition, Mr Blair appeared to recognise the importance of this constitutional question. When a rebellion of Tory peers overturned a Conservative Bill, he rejoiced, claiming it was "a resounding victory for common sense". This week has seen another such victory. In taking their stand on so clear an issue of democratic principle, the Lords have acted in the public interest. Their cause remains just. They should fight on.

D'ALEMA'S DILEMMA

The Kurds must be faced down

Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the PKK (Kurdish Workers Party), is a brutal terrorist, responsible for thousands of deaths, widespread intimidation and the political deception of millions of fellow Kurds. His reported renunciation of violence in Rome this week is a transparent attempt to evade extradition to Turkey to face charges of waging a 14-year guerrilla war that has claimed more than 35,000 lives, ruined much of southeastern Turkey and led to a spiral of violence and army reprisals that have set back Kurdish autonomy for years.

His arrival in Rome has led to an immediate crisis between Italy and Turkey. Thousands of Kurds have converged on the city. Marches in other European capitals have swiftly turned to violence, and supporters have immolated themselves in public squares. Turkey, meanwhile, has erupted in fury at suggestions of asylum for a man most hold responsible for a debilitating civil war and the stunting of democratic politics. Consumers are boycotting Italian goods. Protesters have smashed up Italian businesses. Diplomatic relations between these two Nato allies may be broken.

Massimo D'Alema's Government has been taken by surprise. Nonplussed by the Turkish anger, its reaction has been as naive and inept as those European sympathisers who see in Mr Ocalan a symbol of the just struggle by Kurds against an oppressive Turkish State. Signor D'Alema's dilemma is that he can ill-afford to alienate a country as strategically vital as Turkey — which also happens to be an important Italian trading partner; but fashionable liberation ideology so blinkers him and left-wing supporters to the nature of PKK atrocities that extradition would cause uproar at home as well as rioting on the streets by Kurds.

The PKK is as adept with propaganda as it is vicious with the gun, and has long played on European sympathy for the Kurdish cause. For generations the Kurds, the largest nation without a homeland, have suffered at the hands of those governments where they live. But in Turkey they have been particularly oppressed, banned from using their language, forced into cultural assimilation, politically emasculated and denied any minority rights. The Turkey Army operations against activists are marked by unremitting brutality and torture, the wholesale burning of sympathetic villages and a police state vigilance that fans a burning hatred of Ankara's rule.

Successive Turkish Governments have tried to break this spiral, but have all been thwarted by PKK ruthlessness which has deliberately provoked the Army in keeping with the Marxist revolutionary maxim that the worse the oppression, the greater the popular support for "liberation" movements. The PKK has used drug smuggling, intimidation — especially of fellow Kurds in Germany — and the assassination of tourists to further its aims, all propounded by Mr Ocalan from his safe haven in Damascus until his recent expulsion.

Italy argues that its Constitution forbids extradition to any country enforcing the death penalty. This extrapolation of two articles — the right of asylum to anyone denied in his home country the liberties enjoyed by Italians and the banning of the death penalty in Italy — leaves little room for Mr Ocalan's return to Ankara. But it should not be manipulated to give shelter to a dangerous terrorist. Nor should it preclude sending him to Germany, where he is also wanted for murder. Bonn is loath to stir up maybem among its two million Turks and Kurds. But political courage and ethical consistency demand that it hand an extradition request to Rome as soon as possible.

GOING, GOING, BONG

For whom Big Ben tolls

And finally...the nation mourns one of television's best-loved traditions. Last night the bongs of Big Ben tolled the death knell for ITV's *News at Ten* as one of Britain's most popular news programmes made its own headlines with the announcement that it was to be rescheduled to an early evening slot. To a fond British public, "News at Six Thirty" will never have quite the same ring.

News at Ten was launched more than 30 years ago as a flagship for ITN talent. Then, its editorial team of 19 was led by the wartime bomber pilot and former MP Aidan Crawley. But, as the years went on, this news programme stole a march on its competitors in its understanding of the value of familiarity. Its personalities grew in the public affection: Alastair Burnet, the measured voice of a pin-striped Establishment; Reginald Bosanquet, floribund of feature and sagging in his seat; Sandy Gall, sandblasted and unshaven in an Afghan yurt; Michael Brunson, red-scarfed and overcoated against the chill, dashing across the road from the Commons on to College Green to broadcast, live, the outcome of some crucial 10pm division. Trevor McDonald quickly became a household name, while Anna Ford proved a glamorous answer to BBC's Angela Rippon. Her wide-eyed sincerity and satirically arched brows seduced the attention of even the most resilient male.

News at Ten will always hold a special place in television history. Its end is the end of a soap opera and the public will face it with the same sort of nostalgia felt at the putting down of some old and arthritic family pet. But it had to be done. Digital television is creating a fast-changing marketplace, and *News at Ten*, plonking itself down in the centre of the evening schedule like an old and smelly labrador, was hobbling ITV's ability to compete. Where other channels use peak viewing times for uninterrupted film or drama, ITV was faced with a severe fall-off in viewing numbers — and, consequently, of advertising revenue — as it found itself forced to bisect its own dramas and films.

Parents, grandparents and their grandchildren, who over the years have sat down together to share on *News at Ten* the unfurling and analysis of the world's most important events, will take time to grow accustomed to a new schedule, to the bulletins which will now come at 6.30 and 11.00 pm. But the time for the last bong has come. No news at ten will in the end be good news for viewers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The unelected in defence of free electoral choice

From Mr Nigel Bedrock

Sir, The closed-list system is seen to be unfair to some because it breaks the link between the constituents and their political representative (letters, November 17 and 18). This link is completely bogus.

We don't know the individuals on the ballot papers, we never asked them to be candidates, and when they get elected they are whipped according to party thinking. Many Members of Parliament are so keen to be reselected as candidates that they never stray far from the party line, so we might as well vote for parties and be done with this fallacy. (Remember the Tories being shepherded into the lobbies to push through the poll tax?)

Oh yes, and if there is such a close link between me and my MP why has he/she never knocked on my door?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BEDROCK,
50 Hatch Road, Norbury, SW16 4PN.
nigel.bedrock@virgin.net
November 19.

From Dr Alan M. Calverd

Sir, Like most adults, I do not need to be led, and like most Englishmen, I do not want to be governed. I do however need to be represented, so I campaign and vote for parliamentary candidates whose views most closely agree with mine, but use the advocacy of whoever is eventually chosen by the local electorate and sworn to serve us all. Thousands have striven and suffered to establish a Parliament in which an MP or MEP represents me and is accountable to me — even if we disagree on strategic matters. This gives legitimacy to Parliament.

Should any future election be held on a party-list system, with central selection of candidates and distribution of sham representatives, I shall abandon a lifetime's commitment to the Labour Party and work for whichever group promises to repeal it and restore personal candidates.

Political parties are at best an expedient and at worst an excrescence of democracy: they have no place in our constitution, and must not be given one.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CALVERD,
35 Badgers, Bishops Stortford,
Hertfordshire CM23 4ET.
November 17.

From Mr Max Morris

Sir, How modest of Robert Evans, MEP, in his impassioned support of the closed list for the European elections (letter, November 17), not to mention that he will be number three on Labour's London list and so is virtually ensured of election by this method.

Yours etc,
MAX MORRIS,
44 Coolhurst Road, N8 8EU.
November 17.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, Your leading article today, "Let the people choose", and the Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society (letter, November 18) are the latest to use the phrases "unelected peers" and "unelected Lords" to refer to hereditary peers. But this is merely newspeak. *All* peers are unelected.

Moreover, all peers are life peers in the sense that they remain members of the House until death — a practice which would be derided in every other field of public administration.

No, Sir: the issue is not hereditary-versus-life but the much more fundamental one of how *all* members of the Upper House should come to be there and for how long.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester SO22 4NF.
November 18.

From Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Conservative)

Sir, Peter Riddell unfairly describes the Labour life peer Lord Stoddart of Swindon as "one of the most sanctimonious and disagreeable members of either House" ("An open and shut case for getting rid of hereditary peers", November 17).

David Stoddart's many qualities include courage, tenacity, a great sense of humour and an honourable Euroscepticism. None of these may appeal to Mr Riddell, because he does not appear to share them.

Yours faithfully,
PEARSON of RANNOCH,
House of Lords.
November 17.

From Mr John Nicholson

Sir, Watching the unelected House of Lords exercise its privileged "right" to block the House of Commons, in the latter's undemocratic scheme to "close" voter choice in future elections, is to watch the indefensible defending itself against the indefensible.

Yours,
JOHN NICHOLSON,
58 Langdale Road,
Manchester M14 5PN.
November 19.

Tread softly when visiting the Taj

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, In your leading article, "The tender Taj" (November 17; see also reports, same day), you recommend that, to avoid erosion, visitors should be provided with overshoes before visiting the Taj Mahal at Agra. In fact visitors are already obliged to take off their shoes at the forecourt and perambulate barefoot round the monument — a hazardous enterprise in the pouring rain on the wet and slippery white marble surface, as I discovered recently.

In general the Indian authorities are to be congratulated for the way they are preserving historical monuments, including many from the Raj. I also visited the ruins of the Residency at Lucknow, scene of the five-month siege of the British garrison and non-combatants during the troubles of 1857. The battle-scarred buildings, together with the now landscaped grounds, have been preserved exactly as they were at the end of the siege, as have the gravestones of those who fell there.

Likewise preserved is the obelisk, in another part of the town, marking the tomb of General Sir Henry Havelock, Victorian hero of the relief of Lucknow, whose statue stands on a plinth in Trafalgar Square.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD PRESTON,
68 Saxmundham Road,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5PA.
November 17.

Spike and the Goons

From Mr S. R. Hyde

Sir, David Bradbury and Joe McGrath are right to draw attention to Spike Milligan's part in knocking the stuffiness out of postwar British society (interview, Weekend, November 14).

The Goons were universally admired by adolescents and teenagers of my generation, and plots, jokes and silly voices were rehearsed ad nauseam to the dismay of our parents and teachers. The mad humour helped us cope with life in a rather drab society where officialdom propagated pomposity.

The BBC World Service played its part in spreading this joyful message to the colonies, presumably for the benefit of British expatriates. A Ugandan Asian lad on my degree course at Portsmouth in the early 1960s said that his family had also greatly enjoyed the broadcasts. Half of them did not speak English and none of them understood the jokes, but the gales of spontaneous laughter from the studio audience delighted them. Tuning across the short-wave band in the 1950s, amid stodgy Cold War propaganda broadcasts, British humour stood out like a beacon.

Spike and his colleagues deserve our respect.

Yours, etc,
S. R. HYDE,
38 Prestbury Road,
Cheltenham GL52 2DA.
royhyde@pitvillas.freeserve.co.uk
November 17.

Grammar schools

From Sir Rhodes Boyson

Sir, Your leading article, "Labour's blindspot" (November 16; see also letter, November 17), is quite right to defend the few remaining grammar schools. What is wanted in British education is more variety, not less.

In any case, we do not have comprehensive schools in Britain, we have neighbourhood schools and parents buy a better education for their children by purchasing a house near a prestigious school. Is this social justice?

Bring back the grammar schools and give the bright working-class child a real chance in life again.

Yours sincerely,
RHODES BOYSON
(Education Minister, 1979-83),
Laneham,
71 Paines Lane,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 6 3BX.
November 17.

School inspections

From Mr Mostyn Phillips

Sir, The Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead (letter, November 11), must know the National Union of Teachers' position, since we sent him a copy of our proposals in July 1997.

We made it clear to him that, within a balance of internal and external school evaluation, local education authorities (LEAs) should have an inspection, not just a "monitoring" role. We also argued that, to ensure impartiality, members of LEA teams would be partly made up of inspectors from other LEAs, ensuring objective inspections.

At the heart of our school evaluation proposals is the principle that those who inspect and make judgments should be those in a position to assist schools to improve — something which Ofsted inspectors are expressly forbidden to do.

Yours faithfully,
MOSTYN PHILLIPS
(Chair),
NUT Education and
Equal Opportunities Committee,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD.
November 4.

From Mr Alan Shoote

Sir, I was interested to read Chris Woodhead's description of Ofsted inspections as "rigorous external inspections" providing real accountability. The reality is that the quality of inspectors varies almost as much as the quality of the schools they inspect.

The following quotation from a recent report received by me perhaps illustrates the "rigorous" nature of an inspection. It is referring to the quality of a games lesson.

In some cases, pupils' attention was not helped by the noise of passing trains and by the noise of wind in the many trees.

Whilst one could cut down every tree on a school site, to reroute a railway line, already half a mile distant, would be more difficult.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SHOOTE
(Headteacher),
Marywood Cottage,
Crowfield, Suffolk IP6 9SZ.
November 17.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Those who seek to oust Saddam

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, In his BBC Radio 5 Live interview (report, November 17), Robin Cook called for the removal of Saddam Hussein and said that Britain would work with the Iraqi opposition to achieve this end.

Britain is a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Internal Affairs of States and on the Protection of their Sovereignty, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 21, 1965. Under the declaration no state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal affairs of any other state.

By attempting to oust Saddam Hussein, Britain would be violating this declaration. Robin Cook, surely, cannot expect Britain to act both as protector — the *raison d'être* of Britain's military presence in the Gulf — as well as the violator of international law.

Yours faithfully,
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill, Essex IG2 6TG.
November 17.

From Mr Alan J. Crocket

Sir, Michael Gove was this morning provided with 25 column inches to advocate murder ("Let's give the butcher the chop").

There is no doubt that, given the same platform as your columnist, Saddam Hussein could equally well "justify" any of the numerous liquidations for which he is responsible with the same kind of seductive appeal to considerations of expediency and convenience.

All murder is a moral outrage and an abomination. That this requires explicit expression in your pages is itself shameful.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. CROCKET,
179 Maxwell Drive,
Glasgow G41 5AE.
November 17.

From Mr David Button

Sir, How might we act as judge, jury and executioner in assassinating Saddam yet still support international justice through the courts at The Hague? Michael Gove claims to argue the case for assassination of this dreadful man but surprisingly scarcely touches on the legal or moral issues of such action. If he had done so we then might have judged what other national leaders could be prudently knocked off.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BUTTON,
Little Morgrove, Perrymead,
Bath, Somerset BA2 5AZ.
November 17.

Global warming

From Mr John L. Milligan

Sir, You report today that the savings on doing one's Christmas shopping in New York more than cover the modest cost of the air fare. In the same edition, Mr K. R. Rollinson's letter points out that air travel makes the largest contribution of all means of transport per mile travelled to carbon dioxide loading of the atmosphere.

Thus although the economy of New York shopping may show up in an individual's bank balance, it does little to minimise the impact of our activities on one of the causes of global warming.

This example highlights the need for a reassessment of the cost assumptions that underpin the operation of global business. In particular, those who make decisions on transport have no reason currently to consider the underlying environmental cost involved in the movement of people and goods around the world. In order to challenge this it will be necessary to ensure that such costs are entered into the equation.

As this is a world problem it can only really be addressed by a global, rather than national, approach. If, as a way in, nations agreed to impose a *global* duty on aviation fuel the cost of air travel/air freight would then better reflect its environmental costs.

The proceeds of this duty could be used to put increased resources behind research into global warming and the development of technologies to reduce the adverse impact on the environment of our travel and transport activities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. MILLIGAN,
St Edith's Farmhouse,
Kemsing, Kent TN15 6PT.
November 14.

Feminine angels

From the Reverend D. M. Greenhalgh

Sir, Grammatically the Greek New Testament angel is undoubtedly masculine (Mr H. H. Huxley's letter, November 16), but in fact angels are sexless.

Confronted with the poser about the woman who had seven husbands, Jesus said that the children of the resurrection "neither marry, nor are given in marriage . . . for they are equal unto the angels" (Luke xx, 35-36).

Yours truly,
DAVID GREENHALGH,
3 Cricket Lawns,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HT.
November 16.

From Mrs Maria Fremlin

Sir, I can assure Mr Huxley that people have been puzzled by the angels' gender since at least 1453.

I was brought up in Portugal on the popular belief that when the Turkish Ottomans besieged Constantinople the court did not notice because they were engrossed in discussing the angels' sex.

In my country this episode is often used as a metaphor to describe those whose inattention to real issues leads to disaster.

Your faithful servant,
MARIA FREMLIN,
25 Ireton Road, Colchester CO3 3AT.
mfremlin@usa.net

From Mr T. Nash

Sir, The new Christmas stamps are simply acknowledging a fact of modern life. Pollution by substances which mimic feminising hormones is now widespread. Angels must be particularly sensitive and may have been the first to succumb, but other species are being affected too.

Yours faithfully,
T. NASH,
Lenthay Court, Lenthay Road,
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6BQ.
November 17.

Getting in line

From Mr Martin Harrison

Sir, Mr John Maher and Mr G. A. McKenzie are right about the queue's foreign origin (letters, November 6 and 10). According to the *Memoirs of Madame de la Tour du Pin* (Century Publishing, 1985), "queue" was the name given to a breadline formed outside a baker's shop during the Terror in revolutionary France. It seems that timid people took some pleasure in the queue, as a form of lawful assembly where they could with comparative safety talk to their neighbours.

The traditional English custom of standing around, not in line but detached from one another, may still sometimes be observed near the automatic telling machines of high street banks, no Englishman caring to be a close witness of another's financial transaction.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HARRISON,
11 Grosvenor Hill Court,
Bourdon Street, W1X 9HT.
November 10.

Oeufs en concrete?

From Mr Eric Davies

Sir, I look forward to Delia Smith explaining how to cook the surfeit of dinosaur eggs that have been discovered (report, November 18).

Yours etc,
ERIC DAVIES,
11 Heatherfield,
Buriton, Hampshire GU31 5RY.
November 18.

Legal costs

From Mr John Keevill

Sir, Three hundred pounds for a pair of trousers for the Lord Chancellor (report, November 17)? Is this another costly Labour cover-up?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN KEEVILL,
Forest Oak, Milton Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1DD.
john@towerleasing.co.uk
November 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 19: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning received the Ambassador from Ukraine (His Excellency Professor Volodymyr Vassylenko).

His Royal Highness, President, afterwards chaired a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), was present this evening at a Reception given by the London Branch of The Black Watch Association at the Victory Services Club.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston and Captain William de Rouet were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 19: The Prince of Wales, President, this morning attended a meeting of The Prince's Trust Council at Park Square East, Regent's Park, London.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Guinness Trust, this afternoon attended the launch of the Guinness Trust Landscape Guide at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, later chaired a trustees meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert given by the English Chamber Orchestra and afterwards gave a Dinner at Windsor Castle.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 19: The Duke of York this morning visited the British High Commission in Tonga.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited Tonga High School and the Royal School of Science.

The Duke of York was later entertained to Lunch by Prince Ulukalala-Lavaka-Ata.

His Royal Highness this afternoon departed Fua'amotu Airport for Samoa.

November 18: The Duke of York, having crossed the International Date Line, later arrived at Faleolo Airport and was received by the British High Commissioner to the Independent State of Samoa (His Excellency Mr Martin Williams).

His Royal Highness subsequently called upon Malietoa Tanumafili II at Government House, Apia.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Reception given by Malietoa Tanumafili II at the Parliament building.

November 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a Lunch at Frogmore House, Windsor.

November 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, Spinal Injuries Association, this evening attended a Gala Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 19: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hall upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Tomlinson upon assuming the appointment, and Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Oxlade upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Motum upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, President, British Consultants Bureau, this afternoon presented the Consultants of the Year Awards at 1 Whitehall Place, Westminster, London.

The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, this evening attended the Annual Regimental Dinner at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 19: The Duke of Kent, Patron, London Philharmonic Orchestra, this evening attended a Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 19: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Music Tour of Ely Cathedral given by the Cathedral Choir and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the Reverend Canon Paul Thomas to be a Priest in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, patron, Victim Support Scotland, will attend a national council meeting at the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, at 11.00; as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a luncheon at Adam and Company, Charlotte Square, at 12.50; will open Annfield House, 58 Annfield Gardens, Stirling at 3.15; and as a Fellow, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, will give a dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse at 7.30.

Princess Margaret, president, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will attend the Touch of Tartan Ball in aid of the society at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen at 8.00.

School news

Duke of Kent School
The Governors of Duke of Kent School announce the appointment of Dr Alan Cameron, MA, PhD, as Headmaster from September 1, 1999, to succeed Mr Roger Wilson on his retirement. Dr Cameron is at present a housemaster at Cranleigh School.

Winterfold House School
The Governors announce the appointment of William Ibbetson-Price, MA, of The Oratory School, Berkshire, as Headmaster of Winterfold in succession to Simon Arbuthnott who retires in July after 22 years. A series of events in 1999 is planned, and Old Boys interested should contact the school - 01562 777234.

Sandford St Martin Trust

Dr Eamon Duffy presented the Sandford St Martin Trust Awards for outstanding religious programmes on radio in the past two years at a reception and luncheon held yesterday at Lambeth Palace, by permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Very Rev Michael Mayne, KCVO, Chairman of the Trust, received the guests. The Chair of the Judges was Ms Gillian Reynolds.

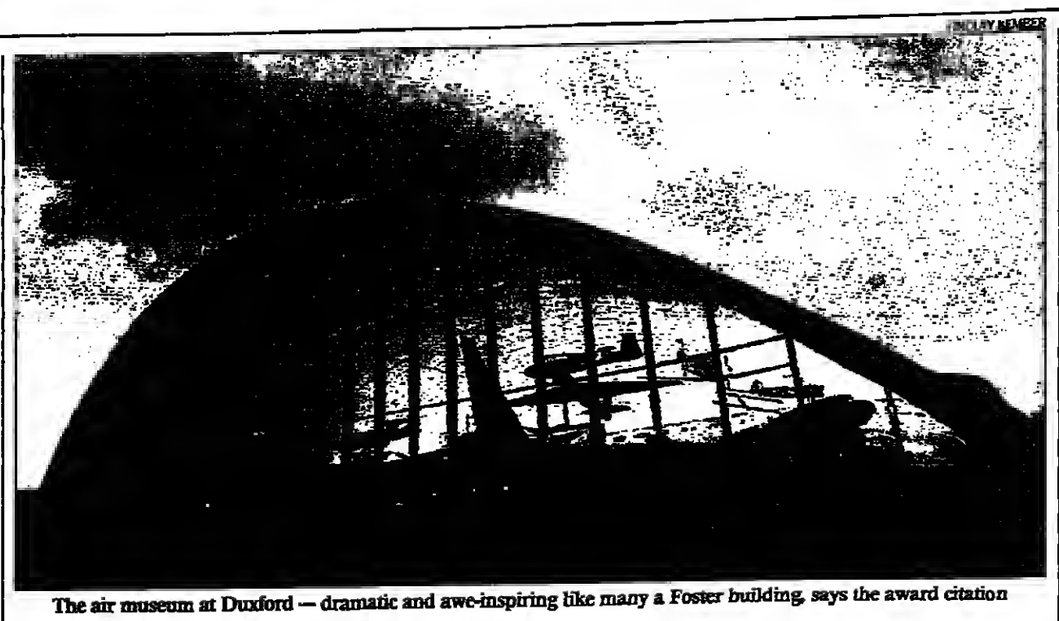
The Academy of Medical Sciences

The Inaugural General Meeting of the newly-formed Academy of Medical Sciences took place on November 16 at 6 Carlton House Terrace. Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, FRS, (Chairman of the responsible Working Party) spoke on the Conception of the Academy, Sir Leslie Turnberg (Vice President) on its Birth and Professor Peter Lachmann, FRS, (President) on the Future. The meeting was followed by a reception.

Appointments

The Earl of Leicester has been elected President of the Historic Houses Association and Mr James Hervey-Bathurst Deputy President.

Dr David Goodbourn to be General Secretary of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, in succession to the Rev John Reardon. Dr Goodbourn, Dean of the Scottish Churches Open College, takes over in March.



The air museum at Duxford — dramatic and awe-inspiring like many a Foster building, says the award citation

Foster's air museum wins £20,000 prize

By Marcus Binney

THE bookies have been confounded as Sir Norman Foster's American Air Museum at RAF Duxford in Cambridgeshire won British architecture's most coveted award, the £20,000 Stirling Prize.

Ladbrokes had placed the controversial British Library as odds-on favourite. Though not on the original shortlist, the library, which was severely criticised by MPs for its cost overruns and aesthetic shortcomings, had been called in by the judges at the last moment.

Foster will take double satisfaction from the fact that his Duxford museum has already been declared joint winner, in June, of the *Building* of the Year award for 1998 made by British Sky Broadcasting and the Royal Fine Art Commission.

The Stirling award, sponsored by *The Sunday Times*, and now in its third year, is named after the late Sir James Stirling, architect of the controversial Number One Poultry building in the City, often cruelly compared to a slice of Battenburg cake.

The air museum has not been without its critics, including American airmen who have found that the all-over concrete roof casts a shadow on the spectacular collection of planes inside. The citation for the award reads: "It has become a memorial to some of the thousands of American bomber and fighter crews who died during the last war. As such, it has something of the hushed calm of a cathedral, its planes crewed by ghosts."

The centrepiece of the museum is an immense B52 bomber. The citation continues: "Like many another Foster building, it is dramatic and awe-inspiring. It is one very simple idea — the great curving hangar — but replete with imagery from ancient earthworks to the cockpit of a modern jet fighter."

No fewer than four out of the 11 buildings on the shortlist were in Germany. The Stirling Prize allows buildings by British architects outside Britain to be proposed as well as buildings by overseas architects with UK affiliations.

The shortlist included Foster's Commerzbank headquarters in Frankfurt, Europe's tallest skyscraper, remarkable for its series of gardens in the sky.

The judges were James Dyson, designer and industralist; Marco Goldschmied, partner of Richard Rogers; the architect Sunand Prasad; Michael Wilford, former partner of Sir James Stirling; the president of the RIBA, David Rock and the architecture correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, Hugh Pearman.

Birthdays today

Today is the 51st anniversary of the marriage of the Queen to the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr M.C. Alexander, writer, 78; Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, 72; the Hon Hugh Astor, former deputy chairman, *The Times*, 78; Sir Peter Badge, former Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, 67; Mr Gareth Chilcott, rugby player, 42; Mr Wallace Clark, Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of County Londonderry, 72; Mr Alistair Cooke, KBE, journalist and broadcaster, 90; Judge Mark Dyer, 70; Mr R.M. Francis, art historian, 51; Mr Joseph J. Gaggero, chairman, GB Airways, 71; Sir Alan Goodison, former diplomat, 72; Miss Nadine Gordimer, author, 75; Miss Dulcie Gray, actress and authoress, 78; Mrs Penelope Hobhouse, horticulturist, 69; the Earl of Home, 55; Mr Aubrey Jones, former MP, 87; Sir Michael Latham, former MP, 56; Mr J.A.S. McPherson, Lord-Lieutenant of Grampian Region, 71; Sir Richard Morris, chemical engineer, 73; Sir David Price, former MP, 74; Mr Steve Smith, athlete, 26.

Bakers' Company

Mr Christopher Gilford, Master of the Bakers' Company, with the Wardens, presided at an awards ceremony held yesterday at Bakers' Hall for students of the National Bakery School of the South Bank University. Professor Gerald Bernbaum, Vice-Chancellor, and Professor C P Clare, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology, were present. Craig Waters, the Top Student of the Bakery School, was presented with the Company Medal and the Freedom of the Company, and Bakers' Company Bursaries were presented to Emma Baxter, Janet Morgan and Margo Duncan. Owen Burton scholarships were presented to the following:
Sandirai Salutombo, Lee Jones, Fawwaz Khayyat, Waddada Balfour, Luis Cano, Christina Benaki, Beatrice Kodiaiwakiza, Rita Annan-Forson, Alison Blott, James Adurademi Jinadu, George Remoundos, Gregory Remoundos, Samantha Powell, Christine Adeosun-Moiett, Olufiowoke Adesida, Harries Blatchway, Jemima Pond-Dapaah, Rose Agyemang, Felicia Mensah and Akua Owusu-Fekyere.

Service dinners

HMS Manchester
Captain N. Morisetti, CSO (Plans) to Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night on board *HMS Manchester* to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Taranto. Lieutenant Commander K.J. Broadley presided. Commander D.A. Halliday, Commanding Officer, was present.

The Black Watch Association
Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch, attended a reception held last night at the Victory Services Club before the annual dinner of the London branch of the Black Watch Association. She was received by Brigadier G.C. Barnett, Colonel of the Regiment, and Colonel R.L.L. Ker, branch chairman, who presided.

Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment
The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, attended the annual dinner held last night at the Army & Navy Club. Major-General Robin Grist, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

The Queen's Royal Lancers
Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancers, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at the Cavalry & Guards Club, Piccadilly.

RAF Strike Command
Air Marshal T. Jenner received the guests at a dining-in night dinner held last night at Headquarters Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, to mark the retirement of Squadron Leader N. Cobb. Group Captain J. W. White presided.

University of London Air Squadron
Air Marshal Sir Peter Squire, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel) and Professor G.J. Zellick, Vice-Chancellor of London University, were the guests of honour at a dinner of the University of London Air Squadron held last night at the Squadron's Town Headquarters. Wing Commander R.J.A. Powell, Squadron Commander, presided.

Dinners

Anglo-Portuguese Society
Mr Robin Cook, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Dr Jaime Gama, Portuguese Foreign Minister, were the guests of honour and speakers at the annual dinner of the Anglo-Portuguese Society held last night at the Langham Hilton Hotel. The Portuguese Ambassador, president of the society, presided and received the guests with Mrs Faria and Mr David Pownall, chairman of the executive committee, and Mrs Pownall. Among others present were:
The Ambassador of Angola and Senhora Da Costa Fernandes, the High Commissioner of Mozambique and Mrs de Koloma, HM Ambassador to Portugal, the Honorary Vice-President of the Society, the Chairman of the Anglo-Brazilian Society and Countess St Aldwyn, the Director-General of Canning House and the Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford.

Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers
Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, presided at the annual Aircraft Industry dinner held last night at Barber Surgeons' Hall. Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine was the principal guest. During the evening the Master presented Miss Jenny Kingston and Mr Gavin Levett with the company's annual Eric Beverley Bursary Awards for their outstanding work at Cranfield University. The Company's Award to Industry was presented to Mr Ron Ayers and Mr Glynne Bowsher, members of the ThrustSSC Design Team, to mark their technical achievement in setting a new land speed record.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Chatterton, the "boy poet", Bristol, 1752; Selma Lagerlof, novelist, Nobel laureate 1909, Marbacka, Sweden, 1858; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, Marshfield, Missouri, 1889.
DEATHS: Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor 1587-91, London, 1591; Anton Rubinstein, pianist and composer, Peterhof, Russia, 1894; Count Leo Tolstoy, writer, 1910; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, Madrid, 1975.
Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce formed Rolls-Royce, 1906.

Memorial services

Dr Archibald Cabbourn Boyle
A memorial service for Dr Archibald Boyle, former Director of Rheumatology, Middlesex Hospital, was held yesterday in the Middlesex Hospital Chapel. Father Paul Kinsey officiated.

Dr Michael Shipley, Clinical Director of Rheumatology and Orthopaedics at University College London Hospitals NHS Trust, gave the welcome and Dr Mary Corbett gave an address. Professor Sir Ronald Mason, FRS, Chairman of the Trust, attended and members of the family, friends and former colleagues were also among those present.

Mr Ralph Noyes
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Ralph Noyes, writer, was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Mary Robins officiated. Miss Mary Rose Barrington read an extract from one of Mr Noyes' essays. Mr Kit Noyes, son, Professor David Fontana, Society for Psychial Research, and Mr Tim Good gave addresses. Mrs Diana Cliff paid tribute in a blues song.

During the service Mr Montague Keen announced an award for the best science fiction novel to be based on an uncompleted draft on which Mr Noyes had been working.

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party at Buckingham Palace yesterday. The guests were:
Mrs Jane Betts (secretary general, The Law Society), Mrs Sarah Payne (Head of Security Group, HM Prison Service), Sir Christopher Bland (Chairman of the Board of Governors, BBC), Mr Jonathan Edwards (athlete), Mr Dubay Hassan (Department of Civil Engineering, Swansea University), Professor Seamus Heaney (poet, critic and translator), Mr Paul Preston (chairman, Employers' Forum on Disability) and Mr John Sclater (council member, The Duchy of Lancaster).

Forthcoming marriages

Captain T.P. Barnes-Taylor and Miss S.B. Howlett
The engagement is announced between Captain Toby Barnes-Taylor, Grenadier Guards, only son of Mr Paul Barnes-Taylor and of Mrs Pamela Barnes-Taylor, of Datchet, Berkshire, and Sasha, younger daughter of Mr James Howlett and of Mrs Alastair Kilburn, of Brinningham, Norfolk.

Mr C. Bentley and Miss B.J. Dew
The engagement is announced between Carl, elder son of Mr Richard Bentley, MBE, of Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire, and Mrs Margaret Bentley, of Stoke Canon, Devon, and Bryony, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Dew, of Sway, Hampshire.

Mr M.N.S. Burnell and Miss I.M.B. Czernin
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burnell, of Northumberland, and Isabelle, youngest daughter of Mr Joseph and the Hon Mrs Czernin, of London.

Mr J.C. Cale and Miss T.N. Wood
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Cale, of Cradley, Worcestershire, and Tanja, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hope, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Mr T.E. de la Rue and Miss S.N. Atkins
The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Mr Anthony St V. de la Rue, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Mrs Ann W. de la Rue, of Bury Hill, Surrey, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs John B. Atkins, of Bunbury, Cheshire.

Mr J. Dewe and Miss D. Synnott
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Roddy Dewe, of Southill Station, Bedfordshire, and Danielle, daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Brian Synnott, of Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr G.S. Critchlow and Miss H.T.C. Lane
The engagement is announced between Stafford, son of Mr and Mrs Rex Critchlow, of Barnoldby-le-Beck, Lincolnshire, and Harriet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lane, of London W1.

Mr R.E. Clayton and Miss L.C. Hill
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Eric Clayton, of Solihull, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hill, of Wimbledon.

Mr W. Cushway and Miss H.J. Devey
The marriage will take place tomorrow, in Buckingham, between Bill and Heidi Jane.

Mr A.W. Dorman and Miss J.B. Woerner
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Benjamin Dorman, of Wentworth, Surrey, and Jamie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffry Woerner, of Peoria, Arizona.

Mr G. Fairclough and Miss K.N. Quigley
The engagement is announced between Gyles, elder son of Mr and Mrs John F. Fairclough, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and Kirsten Noelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick E. Quigley, of Hawick, Scottish Borders.

Mr I. Greenway and Miss D-M. Hanna
The engagement took place on November 6, 1998, of Iain, son of Mr and Mrs Rex Greenway, to Donna-Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Hanna.

Mr S.D. Pearce and Miss S.L. Pullen
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Ken Pearce and of the late Mrs Anne Pearce, of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ken Pullen, of Sidcup, Kent.

Mr J.C. Proffitt and Miss M.V. Kaiser
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Proffitt, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Viviane, elder daughter of the late Mr Christopher Kaiser and of Mrs Ursula King, and stepdaughter of Mr Lyle King, of Wilmington, Delaware, USA.

Mr R.S. Young and Miss S.A. Kebbell
The engagement is announced between Robert Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs J. Young, of Ashford, Middlesex, and Sarah Abigail, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Kebbell, of Lingfield, Surrey.

Archaeology awards come of age

A MILLIONAIRE, the television programme *Time Team*, and *The Times* were among the winners of the British Archaeological Awards, founded in 1977, which came of age at a presentation in the House of Lords yesterday.

This year the organisers decided to give "Awards of Awards" to the most significant contributions.

Time Team has changed our perspective of archaeology, and its programme on the Tockenham site received the Channel 4 award. The magazine *Current Archaeology*, produced on a shoestring by the former accountant Andrew Selkirk and his wife Wendy, was rewarded for 30 years of consistent coverage and idiosyncratic editorials; and *The Times* was recognised for the best article or reporting of archaeology.

The millionaire businessman Ian Skipper received the "Golden Trowel" for his inspiration in setting up the Jorvik Viking Centre in York.

Lectures

British-Italian Society
Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, delivered the annual Leonfield Lecture last night at the Italian Cultural Institute in London. Sir Patrick Fairweather, Chairman, presided. The Italian Ambassador was also present.

Sybil Campbell Library
To mark the re-launch of the Sybil Campbell Library at Great James Street, London, WC1, Dr Cornelia Cook, of Queen Mary and Westfield College, yesterday delivered a lecture to members and guests of the British Federation of Women Graduates.

Service luncheon

King's African Rifles and East African Forces
Brigadier Malcolm Page presided at a luncheon of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Dinner Club held yesterday in Exeter.

Meeting

Byron Society
Professor Robert Barnard, Chairman of the Bronte Society, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the society held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel.

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Two things I ask of you - do not withhold them in my life-time: put frauds and lying far from me: give me neither poverty nor wealth, but provide me with the food I need. Proverbs 30:7,8

BIRTHS

AL SHAMLAN - On November 14th at The Portland Hospital to Claire (née Gaffney) and Saad, a son, Abdulrahman. A brother for Mai.

BAIRD - On November 18th 1998, to Joanne (née Carpenter) and Stewart, a daughter, Alice Rachel.

CHALIGNÉ - On November 12th at The Portland Hospital to Emily (née Black) and Stefin, a daughter, Isabelle Hélène.

DAVENPORT - On November 17th at King's College Hospital to Keren Davies and Mark Davenport, a daughter, Georgina.

ELSE - On November 15th, to Claire (née Wood-Mallock) and Christopher, a son, Thomas Frederick.

EVANS - On 27th October to Paula (née Cunningham) and Hugh, a daughter Lucy Johanna Eleanor.

LEWIS-EVANS - On 17th November to Jane (née Buchanan) and Jeremy, a daughter, Sophie Grace.

LIVINGSTONE - On November 3rd 1998 to Laura (née Hall Taylor) and Simon, a daughter, Charlotte Helena.

MEDLICOTT - Alexandra Grace Innes, born 16th November at Kingston Hospital. A daughter for William and Debbie and a sister for Tom.

SHONE - On November 16th to Andie and Lawrence, twin daughters, Chloé and Sophia.

BIRTHS

RAUSING - On November 17th at The Portland Hospital to Eva (née Kemeny) and Hans, a beautiful daughter, Jemima Catherine, a sister for Lucy and Sam.

DEATHS

ASHFORD - George Francis, OBE, peacefully after a short illness on Wednesday 18th November 1998. Much loved and loving husband of Vera, fond brother of Joan Tench, dear father of Philip and Antony and loving grandfather of Robin, Anna, Peter, Christina, Tom and Matilda. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire on Wednesday 25th November at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired for 'Benyon Ward - Royal Berkshire Hospital' may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading, RG1 4DL.

BARNES - Basil Hilary Purcell, Colonel Royal Signals (Retired), died peacefully on 17th November 1998. There will be a funeral service on Friday 27th November 2.15pm at St. George's Church, Kirkside Road, London SE3, followed by a private cremation.

DEATHS

BATCHELOR - Michael John Guest aged 64. Passed peacefully away at his home in Port St. Mary, Isle of Man, on 16th November. Beloved husband, father and grandfather.

BOULTON - Rev. Canon Peter H. suddenly on 17th November 1998, aged 72 years. Funeral Requiem in Southwell Minster, Wednesday 25th November at noon. Family flowers only, an offering will be taken for the Central American Hurricane Appeal, payable to Tear Fund. Enquiries D.J. Hall F/D Tel: 01636 812481.

CASTELLARI - The family of Giorgio announce with great sadness and regret his tragic passing away on 3rd March 1998. The Funeral will be held on Monday 23rd November at 11.00am at St Andrew's Church, Cuffley, Hertfordshire.

CAVE - On November 16th 1998 Georgiana Helen (née Charrington) wife of the late John Cave, and mother of Jenifer Corbett. A service of thanksgiving to be held at St Peter's Church, Hambledon on Tuesday December 1st at 12 noon. If wished, donations in memory of her to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Sussex.

DEVON - On November 19th peacefully in The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Charles Christopher Courtenay, 17th Earl of Devon. Private Funeral in Powderham Church. Memorial Service at a date to be announced. Donations to Powderham Church Restoration Fund, Theatre Cottage, Powderham, near Exeter.

GREENLEY - On November 18th 1998 Michael William Grimshaw aged 79 peacefully after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Wendy and father of Vivien and James. Funeral at Putney Vale November 25th 1.45 pm.

HOWELL - Godfrey Irving, dearly loved husband of Pat for nearly 57 years and father of Penny and Stephanie died on November 17th 1998. Funeral at Warbleton Church on Wednesday 25th November at 11.00 am. No flowers please, but any donations to the Red Cross.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

JENKINS - Crozier John age 77. On 18th November 1998 after an illness courageously borne. Beloved husband of Corinne, much loved father of Caroline and Christopher and loving grandfather of Cordelia, Rollo, Joey and Eliza. Cremation at St. John's Crematorium, Woking on 26th November 1998 at 11.30 am. Family only at his wish. No flowers - donations instead to the Woking Hospice c/o Woking Funeral Service, Goldsworth Road, GU21 1LR.

KING - Diana Lizzie Amelia died peacefully on Monday 9th November at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital aged 94. A service will be held at the West London Crematorium at Kensal Green, Harrow Road, London W10 4RA, at 4.00 pm on Thursday 26th November. Any donations please to Barnardos, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Essex IG6 1QG.

LEWIS - Sarah, died peacefully at Charing Cross Hospital on November 12th aged 98. Funeral at St Michael & All Angels Church, London W4 on Friday November 27th at 3.15 followed by cremation at Mortlake. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to the above church.

MAHY - Sally Josephine, on November 17th 1998, peacefully after an amazing 5 year fight against cancer. She will be sadly missed by Eric, Victoria, Johnathan, family and all her friends. Funeral service on Tuesday 24th November 1998 at 11 o'clock at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Dorothy House Foundation, c/o: D. Bewley Funeral Directors, 26a Church Street, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6LS.

MOLONY - On 16th November 1998, peacefully at Haven Court, Cicely Kathleen aged 92 years. Founder and first Headmistress of Leaden Hall. Much loved by all her family and friends. Any enquiries to Torbay and District Funeral Service 01803 315005.

O'MEARA - On 18th November 1998, Hannah in her 102nd year. Widow of Lt. Colonel Eugene John O'Meara OBE FRCS, last surviving child of Sir Edmund Hoyle Vestey, Bart. Funeral private, no flowers at her request.

PARTRIDGE - David Martyn James, suddenly on 11th November in Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

PEARSON - John Laurence, on November 16th 1998, following a prolonged illness, John died peacefully in his home (Journey's End), Nottingham. Deeply loved husband of Rosemary, loving father of Jane, Robert and Nicola. Devoted grandfather to Bertie, Hannah, Jenny, Zoe, Charles and Emily. Loyal brother to Jean, Hilary and David. The Service of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's Gate Nottingham, on Tuesday November 24th at 9.30am followed by refreshments at St. Barnabas Cathedral Hall for family and friends. Private Cremation. Floral Tributes or donations if desired to Skin Cancer Unit, Dermatology Dept. University Hospital, Nottingham, c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, 7 Trimpth Road, Lenton, Nottingham. Tel:0115 9785171.

PITE - Frederick Robert FRIBA. Aged 86, on 15th November 1998 in Sevenoaks. Devoted husband to his late wife Rhona. Dearly loved father and grandfather.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

PLINT - Michael Alexander, on 16th November while playing golf with friends, aged 78. Active to the last. Much loved husband of Margaret and the late Peggy, father of Michael, George and the late Charles, grandfather of Annabel, Henrietta and Louisa. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, Henley on Thames at 2.00pm on Thursday 26th November. Enquiries to Tomalin and Son, Henley. Tel: 01491 573370.

STRATTON - Charles Pembroke - on November 19th 1998. After a valiant and determined fight against cancer borne with great fortitude. Son of the late Captain and Mrs. C. G. Stratton, devoted husband of Anne and loving brother to Anne. Funeral private. Donations if desired to The Bob Champion Cancer Trust, 6 Old Garden House, The Lanterns, Bridge Lane, London SW11 3AD.

WALLACE - Joan Somerville, died peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday 17th November. Beloved wife of the late Bill Wallace, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at The Downs Crematorium, on Tuesday 24th November at 3.45pm. Memorial service at Furley Church at a later date. Family flowers only, or donations to Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent c/o Hannington FD, 4-6 Montefiore Road, Hove. Tel:01273 778732.

WARD - Evelyn Annie (widow of late Ronald Arthur Ward) on 19th November, in New Brunswick, Canada, aged 92, in peace.

WEBB-BOWEN - Michael, very dear and much loved by all his family and many friends. Funeral Service to be held at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London SW1 on Friday November 27th at 11.00am. Please no flowers but donations may be sent to Trinity Hospice 30 Clapham North Side, London SW4.

WHITE - David James, formerly of Foreign and Commonwealth Office, son of the late James and Doris White, on November 12th peacefully at home after a short illness. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium, Stag Lane, SW15 on Wednesday 25th November at 12.45pm. Donations for Community HEART (Health, Education and Reconstruction Training) for Southern Africa or if preferred, flowers to Frederick W. Paine, F/D, 24 London Road, Kingston, Surrey, KT2 6QG. Tel: 0181 547 1556.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

VERNON - A Celebration of the life and work of Richard Vernon is to be held at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden London WC2E 9ED on Friday 4th December 1998 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM - WAR

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT - The Colonels Commandant Royal Tank Regiment send their greetings and best wishes to all Officers and other ranks, serving and retired on the eighty first anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. Fear Naught.

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OBITUARIES

ROBIN HALL

Robin Hall, folk singer and broadcaster, was found dead on November 18 aged 61. He was born in Edinburgh on June 27, 1937.

Robin Hall and his long-time singing partner Jimmy MacGregor were a fixture on the television screens of the 1960s, appearing five nights a week on the BBC magazine programme *Tonight*. They were also known to millions as the hosts of the BBC's *The White Heather Club* and, with the singer Andy Stewart (who later took over the programme), they were for many years the best-loved popularisers of traditional Scottish folk music and dance.

In later years — when nationalism had re-emerged as a political force — they were criticised for contributing to the shortbread-tin stereotype of Scottish culture. If this was slightly unfair, they had not helped their cause by mixing traditional material with their own humorous compositions. Their jaunty novelty song, *Football Crazy*, a hit single in 1960, is probably loved and loathed in equal measure by soccer fans around the world, and they were also responsible for such forgettable comic classics as *Ya Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff The Bus*.

Yet beneath their image as kilted professional Scotsmen playing it for laughs, both men were serious students of traditional folklore and custom, and in later years Hall went on to become an award-winning presenter of radio documentaries about aspects of Scottish life.

Hall, the younger of the duo, came from a middle-class Edinburgh family and was originally attracted by the theatre. He studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dramatic Art from 1955 to 1958, and began acting in repertory. Yet he was always interested in Scottish traditional music and was also influenced by the skiffle craze of the time. He began performing solo gigs around the clubs and pubs drawing on both musical strands.

Hall, left, and his long-time singing partner Jimmy MacGregor became a fixture on TV

In 1959 he made an album of child ballads called *Last Leaves of Traditional Ballads* and was invited to Vienna for the World Youth Festival. It was there that he met Jimmy MacGregor, forging a partnership that was to endure for 21 years.

MacGregor was seven years older and came from a working-class Glaswegian family. He was already familiar on the London folk scene as a singer and guitarist, and their teaming-up made perfect sense. They played under various names, including the City Ramblers and the Galliards, making two albums as the latter. They were also politically active, and Hall in particular became a familiar sight on the early Ban the Bomb marches, organised first by the Committee of One Hundred and later by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

After they achieved national prominence on BBC's *Tonight*, fronted by the avuncular Cliff Michelmore, they appeared under their own names, continuing their Monday-to-Friday nightly slot for 14 years.

From 1963 they also presented *Hullabaloo* on ABC Television, and for five years they hosted *The White Heather Club*. As popular in the concert halls as they were on television, they made more than 20 albums and also kept a foot in the more serious folk world by occasional club appearances and tours.

They finally separated in 1979, at the insistence of Hall, who had always been something of a reluctant performer. In a more sophisticated world, both men were also getting fed up with the stereotypical role they were expected to fulfil as Scottish performers. The haggisy, heathery idea of the Scots is as ridiculous as imagining that all Englishmen are Beefeaters, MacGregor complained in 1975.

Hall remained involved in the music industry, arranging and producing folk records, but even before the split he had started dabbling in a different and more serious form of broadcasting for the BBC World Service. In 1977 he won two national radio awards, best presenter and best documentary, for *The Sing Song Streets*, a programme for Radio Clyde about Glasgow told through songs, stories and children's games.

He also became a music and drama critic. There were three subsequent reunions with MacGregor, including a night at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall in 1994. They always remained friends.

Robin Hall married the model Rosalind Thomas in 1979, but they were divorced five years later.

MONICA BALY

Baly: pioneering work in the historiography of the nursing profession

Monica Baly, ourse and nursing historian, died on November 12 aged 84. She was born on May 24, 1914.

MONICA BALY had an enormous impact on the lives of generations of nurses, and on the care of their patients. Her career spanned the Second World War and the development of the National Health Service, and she then went on to become the pre-eminent historian of the nursing profession, and helped to establish an archive devoted to the subject.

Born in Shirley near Croydon in the year of the outbreak of the First World War, Monica Baly was educated at St Hilda's School for Girls, London, and then trained at the Middlesex Hospital. She qualified as a nurse in 1938 and as a midwife in 1939. She worked at the Middlesex until 1942, when she joined the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service. She then took part in the Middle East and Italian campaigns and was mentioned in dispatches.

After being demobbed she worked for a short time as a health visitor with Surrey County Council before going overseas again, this time as chief nursing officer for the Displaced Persons Division in Germany.

Two years later she began her long career at the Royal College of Nursing as one of the earliest regional representatives. She was organiser for the Western area, which then covered almost half of England. In those early days of the NHS she was an inspiration, sharing a vision with often isolated nurses and encouraging them to see themselves as professionals. In 1960 she was secretary of the committee overseeing the amalgamation of the RCN with the National Council of Nurses.

Having helped to gain recognition for the RCN as a union, she led the nurses' Raise the Roof campaign in 1972, which resulted in a 22 per cent pay rise.

When she retired from the Royal College of Nursing two years later, she embarked on a second career in nursing. She already had a distinguished record as a lecturer and examiner, but now she devoted more time to academic studies. She perceived a void, for no one was recording and cataloguing the development of nursing. She was determined to make sure that nurses should know about the history of their profession, partly so that past mistakes need not be repeated.

After taking an Open University degree in 1980, she gained a PhD from London University in 1985. Her thesis was a revaluation of the contribution of Florence Nightingale to the profession, emphasising particularly her role as an agent for political change. As well as returning to primary sources, Baly brought a proper academic rigour to nursing studies, basing her historical investigations on a deep understanding of the period about which she was writing.

She persuaded the general secretary of the Royal College to set up an archive, with a full-time archivist, and herself founded its History of Nursing Group. She wrote a number of influential studies herself, including *Nursing and Social Change* (1973, third edition, 1995) and *Florence Nightingale and the Nursing Legacy* (1983). She was working on a new history of the Middlesex Hospital at the time of her death.

In 1985 she was made a Centenary Fellow of the Queen's Nursing Institute, and asked to write its history. She was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing in the following year.

Baly was also devoted to her adopted city of Bath, where she lived in Royal Crescent for more than 40 years. She never married.

SIR ASHER JOEL

Sir Asher Joel, KBE, AO, politician and public relations consultant, died on November 9 aged 86. He was born on May 4, 1912.

ASHER JOEL rose from poverty in a Sydney suburb to become a politician, a prominent businessman and, most notably, Australia's trailblazing public relations consultant. A specialist in organising grand occasions, he was honoured by the Queen after his two biggest projects — the 1970 Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations, when he was knighted, and in 1974 when he was appointed KBE after the ceremonial opening of the Sydney Opera House.

Joel's was the organising skill behind other national events, including the visits to Australia of President Lyndon Johnson and Pope Paul VI, the latter recognised by a papal knighthood.

A self-educated man who developed an enthusiasm for archaeology, Joel set up a foundation at Sydney's Macquarie University to further archaeological studies in the Middle East. He also wrote a well-received historical novel about the struggle for independence in the Philippines.

Asher Joel was the son of Harry Joel, whose Central European Jewish family migrated to Australia via England just after the turn of the century. He left Cleveland Street High School at 14 to begin work as a copyboy on the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, where lack of educational qualifications meant that he won his journalistic cadetship only by proving his potential by filing copy for a crime reporter missing on a drinking spree.

At 19 he became parliamentary roundsman on the *Labor Daily*, coming to the notice of leading politicians, and in 1938 he was invited by the Premier, Sir Bertram Stevens, to become publicity director for the 150th anniversary celebrations of the founding of New South Wales.

Joel made an immediate impact, and when the Second World War broke out, he was asked to run the Lord Mayor's Comfort Fund, a Services charity for which he raised considerable sums.

He joined the Australian Imperial Forces in 1942, transferring to the Royal Australian Navy, and serving in 1944-45 as a liaison officer with General Douglas MacArthur, the Allied Commander in the Southwest Pacific.

Back in Sydney, Joel founded the country's first public relations consultancy, which was considered exotic in the unsophisticated Australia of the day. He worked at first for the Liberal Party in Victoria, but he was a Sydney man at heart and returned to his home city to handle accounts ranging from the New South Wales Trotting Club to the margarine industry.

The ambitious Joel then tackled what was believed to be a political impossibility — election to the Legislative Council as an independent. The State Upper House was elected not by popular franchise, but by a combined sitting of the council and the Lower House, the Legislative Assembly. Joel failed at his first attempt, but a few months later, in 1947, he won his seat. Later he transferred to the Country Party (now the National Party), and served 21 years continuously.

Public relations remained the core of Joel's business, but in 1966 he set up the *North-West Star* newspaper in the Queensland mining centre of Mount Isa. His Asher Joel Media Group, later run by his children, continued to operate on a modest scale in newspapers and country television. Joel never retired, visiting his city office daily until well into his eighties.

He was happy in Sydney's clubland, belonging to the American and Journalists' Clubs, the Australasian Pioneers, and the Royal Agricultural Society, as well as the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Despite the stirrings of republicanism, Joel's definitive *Australian Protocol and Procedures* (1982) ran to a surprising second edition in 1988. He was appointed OBE in 1956, knighted in 1971, and advanced to KBE in 1974; he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1986.

His first marriage was dissolved in 1948; he is survived by his second wife, Sybil, and by three sons and a daughter.

GEOFFREY AINSWORTH

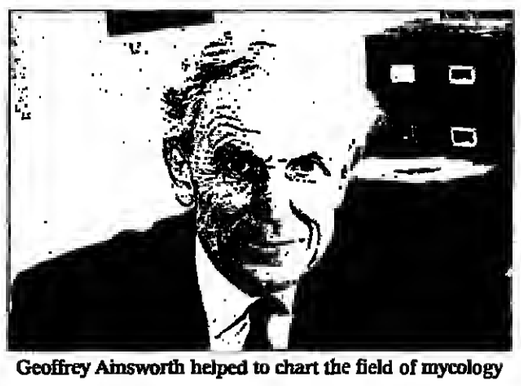
Geoffrey Ainsworth, mycologist, died on October 25 aged 93. He was born on October 9, 1905.

FUNGI affect our lives in secretive but vital ways: as agents of plant and human diseases, of spoilage and decay, as food, sources of industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and in the production of alcoholic beverages and bread. They also encourage tree growth, and are critical to nutrient recycling in nature. Few scientists have endeavoured to embrace the subject's diversity and to create order across the discipline, but Geoffrey Ainsworth charted it in a series of reference works.

But perhaps the most enduring legacy of this modest yet determined mycological polymath, who was always a stickler for accuracy and sometimes had to struggle with a stammer, is his brainchild, the International Mycological Congress. The first was held in Exeter in 1971, and it continues to be held every four years under the auspices of the International Mycological Association. In 1996, the association coined the Ainsworth Medal in his honour.

Geoffrey Clough Ainsworth was born in Birmingham but educated at Ipswich Grammar School, Kingswood School in Bath, and University College, Nottingham, where he took a first in botany in 1930.

He then focused on plant pathology, first at the experimental stations at Rothamsted, 1930-31, and Cheshunt, 1931-39. At Cheshunt he was responsibile for research into virus and other diseases of horticultural crops. In the meantime he obtained a doctorate from London University in 1934, and prepared his first book, *The Plant Diseases of Great Britain* (1937).



Geoffrey Ainsworth helped to chart the field of mycology

Preparation of this meticulous compilation brought him into contact with the Imperial (later Commonwealth and then International) Mycological Institute at Kew, which he first visited in 1932, joining its staff as an assistant in 1939-45.

Interludes during air raid alerts included hot drinks with the Liberal Party leader Jo Grimmond on nearby Kew Green, and composing clerihews about the staff — a levity disapproved of by his director. But Ainsworth was never one to waste a moment, so he and his fire-watching partner Guy Bisby spent their nights going through the institute's library completing index cards. Special dispensation to use paper was obtained, and their work was issued as the *Dictionary of the Fungi* (1943). This was one of the first scientific works written in C. K. Ogden's Basic English. Ogden took an interest, and the first copy was presented to Winston Churchill, who had established a Cabinet committee on Basic English and had appealed for its wider use. This *vade mecum* of mycologists is now in an eighth edition (1995), with 20,000 entries.

With the rise of interest in antibiotics after the discovery of penicillin, Ainsworth was able to escape the poverty-trap that was the institute's pay structure by moving to head the mycological department at Wellcome's laboratories in 1946. He doubled his salary, and widened his interests to include medical and veterinary mycology. As a Wellcome research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1947-48 he surveyed the diseases of humans and animals in Britain. Medical mycology became a passion, and he produced books on *Medical Mycology* (1952) and *Fungal Diseases of Animals* (with P. C. K. Austwick, 1959), and formed the British Society for Mycopathology. He continued these interests — as well as the naming of micro-organisms and plant pathogens — as a lecturer and then reader at the University of Exeter from 1948 to 1957.

He then returned to the Mycological Institute, rising to be Director for four years before retiring in 1968. He was an ardent campaigner for more money, and sometimes had to threaten resignation to secure additional staff and microscopes.

Some of his most significant projects were embarked upon or completed in retirement. *The Fungi: An Advanced Treatise*, which he edited in five volumes (1965-73) with A. S. Sussman and F. K. Sparrow, is the most ambitious work on fungi this century. Yet his scholarship reached its zenith in the *Introduction to the History of Mycology* (1976), *An Introduction to the History of Plant Pathology* (1981) and *An Introduction to the History of Medical Mycology* (1986) followed; but he declined to pen a companion on industrial mycology because too much was secreted in company archives. His last book, *Brief Biographies of British Mycologists* (1996), was issued for the centenary of the British Mycological Society (of which he was president in 1950).

His awards and honours include an honorary presidency of the International Mycological Association in 1977, the Linnean Medal for Botany in 1980, and the Lucille K. Georg Medal of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology in 1982 and 1997. The naming of a new laboratory block, the Ainsworth Building, recognised his contribution to the institute when it relocated from Kew to Egham in 1992.

A Quaker and always a socialist at heart, he married Frances Hilda Bryan in 1931. She and their two daughters survive him.

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THE COLONELS Commandant Royal Tank Regiment send their greetings and best wishes to all Officers and other ranks, serving and retired on the eighty first anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. Fear Naught.

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RACKETEERS IN NEW YORK

New York, Nov.19

About 50 leading citizens of New York, including outstanding business men, lawyers, Government officials, and ecclesiastics, have been summoned to meet tomorrow afternoon in conference to consider ways and means for dealing with "racketeering" in this city, which, according to Mr Thomas Crain, the District Attorney, has reached the dimensions of a public terror. Among those invited to the conference are Mr John D Rockefeller, junior, Mr Henry W Taft, President of the New York County Lawyers' Association; and Mr John Sullivan, President of the New York State Federation of Labour.

The conference is intended to constitute a sort of vigilance committee to advise the District Attorney on the strategy and tactics of a new campaign he proposes to open against "racketeering" gangs here, whose power is admittedly unsurpassed even in Chicago.

Mr Crain announced his intention to undertake the campaign as the result of an inquiry conducted by Mr Joseph Lilly, correspondent of the *New York Telegram*. Mr Lilly published the fact that in the month since October 12, when Jack Diamond was shot at the Hotel Montcello, "racketeering" gangs in New York have shot and killed one person every day. The total number of shootings during the period was 89, of which 35 were fatal.

Some of those shot by "racketeers" were rival "racketeers" and others were victims of extortion who refused to submit. As usual the highly profitable and therefore dangerous "slot machine racket" is responsible for a number of deaths. Several people were shot as the result of quarrels over markets for grapejuice to be turned into wine. One man, who had engaged in many other illegal businesses, was finally shot by rivals when he attempted to enter the "miniature golf racket".

The last "racket" was organised with great rapidity and efficiency as soon as the craze for miniature golf established itself. There are several thousands of miniature golf courses in New York from which "racketeers" collect large and regular payments of tribute under threat of bombings and shootings.

Since Mr Crain responded to the agitation of the *Telegram* and announced that he would take new measures he has received numerous letters from alleged victims of "racketeers", but the majority of the victims are extremely unwilling to expose themselves to the vengeance of "racketeers", which inevitably falls heavily on witnesses or intending witnesses.

Judge John E McGeehan, Justice of the Supreme Court, who, as District Attorney, was successful last year in driving the building "racketeers" out of the Bronx after they had destroyed several million dollars' worth of house property, declared today that direct action without too much fuss about legality was the only means to deal with "racketeers". Asked what he would do if he were in Mr Crain's position, he said, "I would kneel down and pray and ask the help of God Almighty, and with His grace upon me I would go out and call on Police Commissioner Mulrooney".

ON THIS DAY

November 20, 1930

In 1930 it was claimed that the activities of racketeering gangs in New York had reached the dimensions of a public terror.

NEWS

Labour gives power to its members

■ Tony Blair is planning to carry on his Labour Party revolution with a package of internal changes designed to attract more members and curb the last power bastions of the old Left.

Having given his party a new constitution through the scrapping of Clause 4 and downgrading the annual conference, the Prime Minister now intends to grant far more power over policy to ordinary party members ..... Pages 1, 7

News at Ten to go

■ The Independent Television Commission signed the death warrant of *News at Ten*, after more than 30 years on air. The decision by a seven to three majority of the 10 members of the commercial broadcasting regulator flew in the face of opposition from politicians and viewers ..... Page 1

Doomed turkeys

The traditional farm-fresh turkey, with gently rotting innards still intact, may be seen in butchers windows for the last time this Christmas, under Ministry of Agriculture plans ..... Page 1

Starr scrutiny

Kenneth Starr, President Clinton's tormentor for the past four years, became the subject of an inquisition himself as the third impeachment hearings in American history opened amid bitterness and rancour ..... Pages 1, 19

League tables

Ministers bowed to a chorus of criticism from head teachers and dropped a controversial new measure of teenagers' progress from league tables ..... Page 2

End of aria

The fat lady was denied her chance to sing in the High Court when the majestically proportioned soprano, Jessye Norman, lost her bid to sue for libel over a quip about her size ..... Page 3

Drugs alert

Police issued a national warning to drug users to beware of dealers selling two Ecstasy substitutes that can kill ..... Page 5

Hague says 'no'

William Hague raised the stakes in the confrontation between the Commons and the Lords by refusing to co-operate over the European Elections Bill ..... Page 12

Sacred shirt

A sacred shirt worn by an American Indian warrior thought to have died at the massacre of Wounded Knee is to be returned to the Lakota Sioux ..... Page 9

30-year riddle

Relatives of people killed in an Irish aircrash 30 years ago have begun legal action to decide if the aircraft was shot down by a British missile ..... Page 13

Paganism warning

The English countryside will quickly return to paganism if the Church of England withdraws from remote villages, the Bishop of Lincoln told the General Synod ..... Page 14

Trade war

A Turkish boycott of Italian goods began to bite as industrialists said they feared the row between Rome and Ankara over a Kurdish leader would damage trade ..... Page 17

Long range scandal

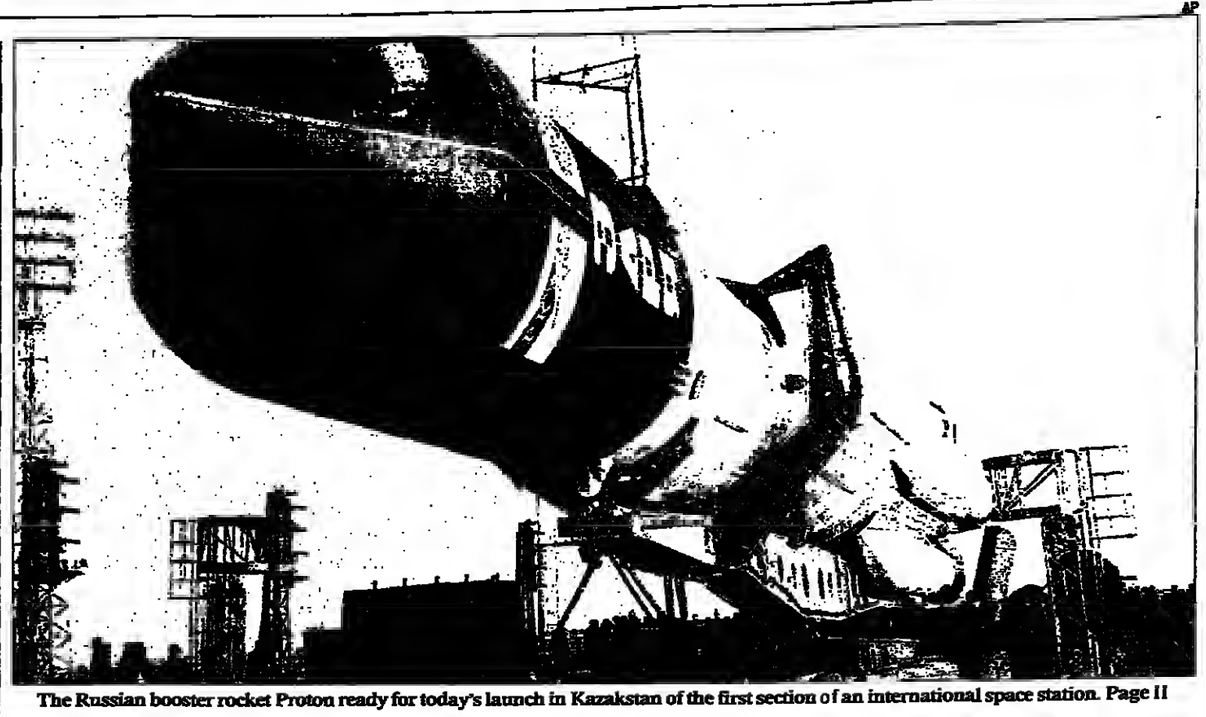
President Clinton, who might have thought he had left the Lewinsky scandal at home, was confronted over the affair by a Japanese housewife ..... Page 18

Israeli pullout

An obstacle to the first Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank in nearly two years was removed when the Cabinet approved the first stage of the peace pact ..... Page 21

Putting Saddam in the picture

■ Saddam Hussein is a man of many talents: a loving family man, concerned social worker, welder, Kurdish chief, general, pilot, architect and blokeish buddy of the masses. We know this because the Iraqui autocrat has an army of portrait painters who capture every pose imaginable and some that are beyond comprehension ..... Page 20



AP

The Russian booster rocket Proton ready for today's launch in Kazakstan of the first section of an international space station. Page 11

BUSINESS

Euro bourses: Plans by London and Frankfurt to create a pan-European stock market gained a significant endorsement when Paris dropped plans to create a rival alliance ..... Page 29

School bus cartel: Stagecoach has been implicated in a a secret agreement to rig the school bus market in Kingston upon Hull, whose MP John Prescott is the minister responsible for transport ..... Page 29

Storehouse fall: Shares fell to a six-year low after the retail group gave warning of a downturn in trading ..... Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 132.2 to 5606.2. The pound fell .52 cents to $1.6681 and rose 1.11 pfennig to DM2.8017, the index rising to 100.8 from 100.7 ..... Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: Mark Taylor, who plays his 100th Test for Australia in the opening match of the Ashes series against England, can reflect affectionately on a week in Birmingham last June ..... Page 52

Football: There was a glimmer of light for England, and a smile on Glenn Hoddle's face, after their 2-0 win over the Czech Republic at Wembley ..... Page 56

Rugby union: An unchanged XV will do duty for England in their World Cup qualifying match against Italy, who are expected to play a physical game ..... Page 56

Racing: Jamie Osborne, the National Hunt jockey, was told that he faces no charges and has been eliminated from all police inquiries into race fixing and doping ..... Page 51

ARTS

Fishy tale: "You don't have to be mad to be an artist but a little endearing quirkiness never did any harm" — Richard Morrison on history being made in Grimsby ..... Page 39

Pop 1: Natalie Imbruglia live at the Forum. Caitlin Moran on the perils of the aftershow pop party and Roddy Frame's setting for a gig — the Outer Hebrides ..... Page 40

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews Bruce Springsteen's 4-CD set and the rest of the week's pop albums; plus jazz and soul CDs, and blues virtuoso Eric Bibb ..... Page 41

Little Ewan: The latest star to earn his laurels on the London stage is Ewan McGregor, in *Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs* at Hampstead ..... Page 42

FEATURES

Jane Shilling: "Here comes the party season ... all I need now is the right dress" ..... Page 22

Rising star: She looks somehow familiar and that's because Natascha McElhone is an understated Londoner who has acted with a *Who's Who* of Hollywood stars ..... Page 23

MEDIA

Crisis talks: Has the crisis between newspapers and the Premier League solved — or has it just been delayed? ..... Page 43

Spin-search: Tories embark on a search for their own Alastair Campbell ..... Page 43

EDUCATION

Table talk: How two girls' schools keep ahead in the league tables ..... Page 48

THE EARTH

The decision by US Vice President Al Gore to lambaste Malaysia at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum was a mistake. It is not that Mr Gore's message was off the mark — US concern over political developments in Malaysia is shared by other APEC members. Nor should such criticisms go unstated. Rather, the way and place that the rebuke was delivered threatens to distract and divide Apec just when focus and cooperation is needed most—*Japan Times*

RADIO & TV

Preview: The stars turn out for *Children in Need* (BBC1, 7pm). **Review:** Paul Hoggart on the report into gang rape ..... Pages 54, 55

OPINION

Lords and people

The Lords have acted in the public interest. Their cause remains just. They should fight on ..... Page 25

D'Alemo's dilemma

Political courage and ethical consistency demand that Bonn hand an extradition request to Rome as soon as possible ..... Page 25

Going, going, bong

No news at ten will in the end be good news for viewers ..... Page 25

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Small towns have no champions. Their streets decay with cut-price stores or are torn apart for crude mini-halls, frantic to compete with hypermarkets. They either retain traffic in the hope of passing trade, or exclude it in the hope of pedestrian uplift ..... Page 24

MARY ANN SIEGHART

Tony Blair is in danger of being seduced by EMU for reasons that are less to do with economics and more to do with political strategy, not just overseas but also at home ..... Page 24

PHILIP HOWARD

Accordingly the People's High Priest, Tony Blair, summoned the Assembly of the People by blowing upon all the silver pagers and Ansaphones made of rams' horns at Millbank Tower ..... Page 24

PETER RIDDELL

William Hague is playing adolescent politics. He and his advisers quickly need to learn some constitutional history, rather than seek the cheers of Tory MPs ..... Page 12

OBITUARIES

Robin Hall, folk singer; **Geoffrey Ainsworth**, mycologist; **Sir Asher Joel**, Australian politician; **Monica Baly**, nursing historian ..... Page 27

LETTERS

Voter choice; Taj Mahal; Saddam; grammar schools; postwar humour; school inspections; global warming; queues; angels ..... Page 25

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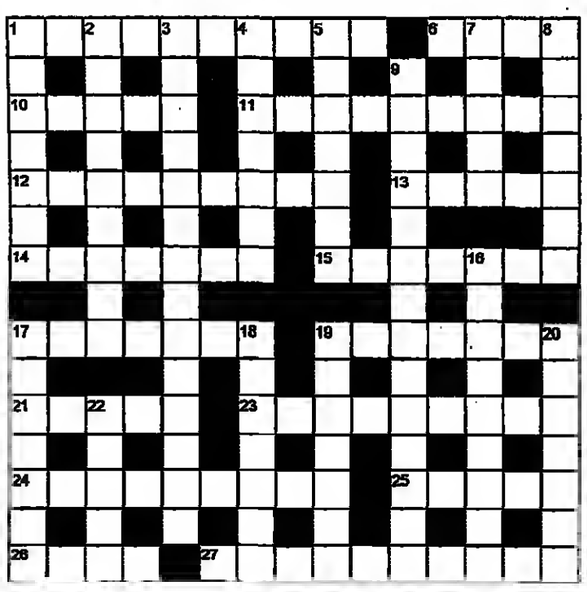
TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

■ RE-BORN IN THE USA
Bruce Springsteen retraces his tracks

■ GRUB'S UP
Jonathan Meades on the English way of food

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,954



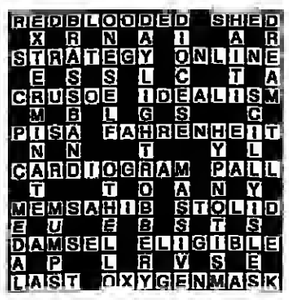
ACROSS

1 French settlement — New Caledonia? (4,6).
6 Those leading boys up rocky paths get the wind up (4).
10 Part of joint to which musical group returns (5).
11 Military offender treated after duel (9).
12 Retired surgeon affected by skin problem (9).
13 Pick a light colour (5).
14 Province of Orthodox Church a cypher represented (7).
15 Writer turned into fat cat (7).
17 Herb runs into base after church (7).
19 Unfashionable US city was emptied of criminals (7).
21 Shiny black metal from Italian city (5).
23 Port scoundrel out to lunch passed to left (9).
24 Old whisper circulating about new possession (9).
25 Put out to graze many head of Hereford here? (5).
26 Trained soldiers manouevre on the flanks (4).
27 Lonely wife takes drug with champagne (5,5).

DOWN

1 Worthy, but incompetent (7).
2 See show and defend against critics (9).
3 Ignored ecstatic politician going round so-called Garden (4,2,8).
4 Well-behaved worker in hospital (7).
5 One stupid to lend, if not in good faith? (7).
7 Free advertising's beginning to be eliminated from BBC (5).
8 Solid girl in the swim, coming to the top (7).
9 Living further — the attraction of having skill with gun (5,2,3,4).
16 Profligate accepted in a gang (9).
17 Cover for vehicle parking, or another vehicle put outside (7).
18 Sudden movement, followed by hesitation, makes greyhound cross (7).
19 Cop-outs amended in big organisation (7).
20 One way or another, put facade round 'ouse (7).
22 Rancour displayed by somebody in powerboat that's capsized (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,953



Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.27 am — Sun sets: 4.05 pm

Moon sets 5.24 pm — Moon rises 6.15 am

First quarter November 27

London 4 05 pm to 7.28 am
Bristol 4 15 pm to 7 38 am
Edinburgh 3.58 pm to 8 01 am
Manchester 4 05 pm to 7 45 am
Penzance 4.32 pm to 7.44 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** some sun in S and E England after early frost and fog but chilly. Milder in N and W but light rain possible, preceded by wet snow over northern peaks. E Scotland drizzly while steadier, heavier rain will set in over N Ireland and W Scotland; the wind will strengthen. Tonight: the E and SE dry and frosty with fog patches. Milder with rain in the W and N.

☐ **London, SE Eng, E Ang, Cent S Eng, E Mid, E Eng, Chan Is:** locally frosty. Fog patches, some weak sun. Light SE wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **W Mid, Cent N Eng, NE Eng:** local frost and mist. Bright but light rain later. Wet snow over peaks soon turning to rain. Moderate S to SE wind. Max 7C (44F).

☐ **SW Eng, S Wales:** occasional light rain or drizzle in west, dry to east after mist and frost. Moderate S to SE wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Wales, NW Eng, Lake Dist:** mostly cloudy, some light rain. Wet snow at first over the peaks, soon turning to rain. Moderate S wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Isle of Man, N Ire:** becoming wet and windy but milder. Fresh to strong S winds setting. Max 12C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edin & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** light rain or drizzle spreading east; mist or fog. Snow on peaks, becoming rain. Freshening S wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NE Scot, Orkney, Shetland:** light rain or drizzle, becoming steadier and heavier. Milder. Moderate to fresh S winds increasing strong S to SW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW Scot, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scot:** rain spreading east, turning heavier. Snow over the peaks soon turning to rain. Strong S winds, locally gale force later. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Irish Rep:** mostly cloudy, perhaps rain in west. Freshening S wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold, frosty in south and east; milder, windy and rainy in north and west.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

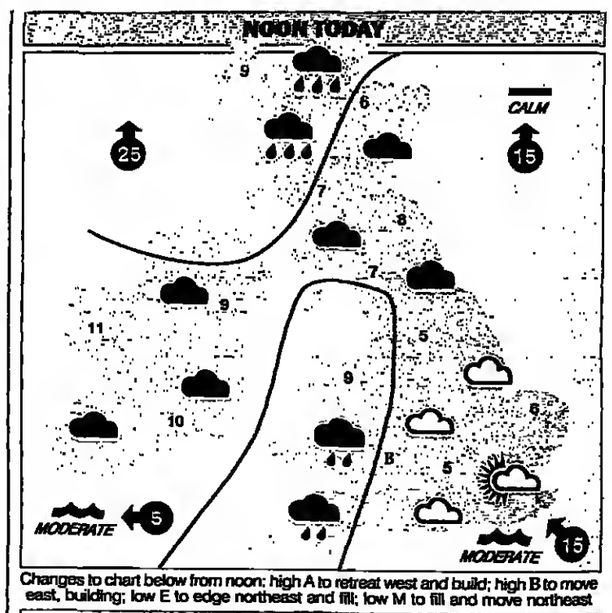
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.0	-	5	41	b	Kinloss	3.6	-	7	45	s
Anglesey	-	0.06	8	45	r	Leeds	0.6	-	6	43	c
Aspatria	1.1	0.01	7	45	c	Lerwick	3.7	0.01	8	43	sh
Aviemore	3.6	-	5	41	b	Littlehmptn	2.3	-	9	48	b
Belfast	-	0.02	8	46	r	London	-	0.01	8	48	c
Birmingham	4.7	0.01	7	45	s	Lowestoft	6.0	0.01	7	45	s
Bognor R	2.1	-	9	48	c	Manchester	X	X	8	46	b
Bournem'th	4.1	0.01	11	52	c	Margate	4.3	0.07	9	48	b
Bristol	0.3	-	9	46	c	Morecambe	2.6	0.01	8	46	b
Buxton	-	0.06	4	39	c	Newcastle	4.7	-	7	45	fg
Cardiff	-	-	8	45	c	Newquay	-	0.24	9	48	r
Clacton	4.5	0.05	7	45	c	Norwich	5.2	0.01	8	46	s
Cleethorpes	6.8	0.02	8	48	s	Oxford	5.8	-	8	46	c
Colwyn Bay	1.3	0.01	7	45	c	Penzance	-	0.51	10	50	r
Cromer	5.0	0.01	7	45	s	Prestatyn	2.1	0.01	8	46	c
Eastbourne	-	0.01	7	45	du	Ross on Wye	0.8	-	7	45	b
Edinburgh	1.2	-	7	45	b	Saunton Snd	-	0.03	7	45	du
Eskdalemuir	0.6	0.03	5	41	c	Scarboro'	5.7	0.01	7	46	s
Exmouth	-	0.01	9	48	-	Shrewsbury	1.4	-	7	45	c
Folkestone	1.1	0.05	7	45	c	Skegness	4.4	0.01	7	46	s
Glasgow	0.2	0.01	6	43	c	Southend	X				
Guernsey	-	-	8	48	c	Southport	-	0.08	7	45	b
Hastings	-	0.01	7	45	c	Southsea	3.4	-	9	48	c
Hayling I.	2.9	0.01	10	50	s	Stornoway	-	0.03	8	45	r
Herne Bay	1.5	0.09	8	48	b	Swanage	4.8	-	11	52	b
Hove	0.3	-	9	48	b	Teignmouth	-	0.01	9	48	d
Hunstanton	3.3	0.04	7	45	b	Tenby	-	0.16	8	46	r
Isle of Man	0.2	0.05	8	48	r	Tiree	-	0.08	8	48	r
Isle of Wight	2.8	0.01	10	50	b	Torquay	-	0.04	8	48	du
Jersey	1.9	-	7	45	b	Weymouth	2.4	-	10	50	s

ABROAD

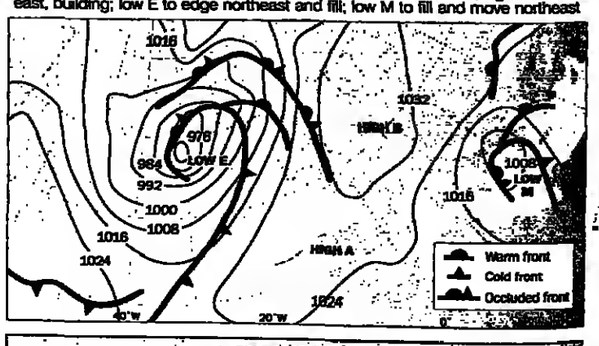
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Cologne	5	41	c	Madrid	13	55	s	Rome	11	52	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	10	50	r	S Frisco	12	54	s
Alex'dria	23	73	f	C'phagn	0	32	f	Malaga	21	70	s	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	19	66	s	Dublin	8	46	f	Malta	17	63	f	Salzburg	-2	28	f
Amst'dm	4	39	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	s	Melb'rne	X			Santiago	26	79	s
Athens	18	61	s	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	X			Seoul	0	32	s
B Aires	23	73	s	Florence	10	50	s	Miami	29	84	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Frankfurt	1	34	f	Milan	9	48	c	Sr'kholm	-1	30	c
Bangkok	33	91	f	Funchal	23	73	c	Montreal	1	34	f	Strasb'rg	3	37	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	0	32	c	Moscow	-11	12	sn	Sydney	17	63	c
Barcelona	12	54	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	0	32	s	Tangier	18	64	f
Beijing	0	32	s	Helsinki	-8	18	s	N Delhi	24	75	s	Tel Aviv	23	73	f
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	23	73	c	N York	8	46	s	Tenerife	24	75	s
Belgrade	3	37	f	Innsbruck	0	32	s	Nairobi	16	61	c	Tokyo	15	59	s
Berlin	0	32	sn	Istanbul	8	46	f	Naples	X			Toronto	8	46	f
Bermuda	23	73	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	13	55	f	Tunis	17	63	f
Biarritz	11	52	f	Jo'burg	15	59	f	Oslo	-7	19	fg	Valencia	17	63	s
Bordeaux	5	41	f	L Angeles	16	61	s	Paris	3	37	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Brussels	4	39	f	L Palmas	24	75	s	Perth	X			Venice	8	46	s
Budapest	3	37	s	Le Touquet	6	43	f	Prague	-2	28	c	Vienna	2	36	f
Cairo	24	75	s	Lisbon	17	63	s	Reykjavik	4	39	f	Warsaw	-5	23	sn
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	8	43	s	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	12	54	s
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	0	32	f	Rio de J	32	90	f	Wel'ngton	20	68	X
Chicago	13	55	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	29	84	s	Zurich	0	32	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high A to retreat west and build; high B to move east, building; low E to edge northeast and fill; low M to fill and move northeast



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:41	4.2	13:54	4.2	Liverpool	11:42	9.2	23:57	9.1
Avonmouth	7:39	12.9	19:53	12.7	London Bridge	2:15	7.1	14:30	7.2
Belfast	11:29	3.4	23:44	3.4	Lowestoft	9:54	2.5	22:11	2.5
Cardiff	7:25	11.9	18:39	11.8	Margate	0:18	4.7	12:32	4.7
Devonport	6:09	5.8	18:27	5.5	Milford Haven	8:39	6.8	18:54	6.7
Dover	11:31	6.5	23:46	6.5	Newquay	5:30	6.8	17:45	6.7
Dublin	-	-	12:00	4.0	Oban	6:12	4.0	18:14	4.0
Falmouth	5:40	5.4	17:58	5.3	Penzance	5:02	5.4	17:15	5.3
Greenock	0:45	3.3	13:18	3.4	Portland	7:12	2.1	19:31	2.0
Harwich	0:08	4.0	12:23	3.9	Portsmouth	11:52	4.8	-	-
Holyhead	10:47	5.5	23:03	5.4	Shoreham	11:41	6.1	-	-
Hull (Albert D)	6.45	8.4	18:59	8.5	Southampton	11:11	4.6	23:30	4.4
Ilfracombe	6:24	8.9	18:38	8.8	Swansea	6:48	9.4	19:02	9.2
King's Lynn	6:49	6.5	19:04	6.6	Tees	3:58	5.4	16:14	5.4
Leith	3:06	5.4	15:16	5.4	Walton-On-Naze	0:01	4.2	12:18	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Bournemouth, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Camborne, Cornwall, 0.59in; highest sunshine: Cleethorpes, 6.8hr. NB United data unavailable because of communications problems.

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هكذا من الأصل

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1998

Paris to join Europe alliance

By Paul Durman

PLANS by London and Frankfurt to create a pan-European stock market moved a step closer yesterday when Paris dropped plans to create a rival alliance and applied to join the other two bourses.

The Société des Bourses Francaises will host a meeting next Friday of representatives from the exchanges in London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels, Madrid, Milan, Stockholm and Zurich.

A spokeswoman for the Paris bourse said: "That nine stock exchanges will sit at the same table and discuss this is a big breakthrough."

The talks are aimed at creating a single European equity market that will enable investors to buy shares in the Continent's leading companies without having to worry about local differences in regulations and dealing methods.

The move is forecast to lead to wide-ranging changes in the ownership of European companies. It is suggested that British institutions will start buying shares in Siemens and Danone as readily as they currently invest in GEC and Marks & Spencer.

With the growing popularity of index-investing, the emergence of a European elite could weaken investor demand for the second tier stocks that, in the UK, make up the FTSE 250.

The London Stock Exchange and Frankfurt's Deutsche Boerse are already working on plans that will give their member firms equal access to both markets from January. The proposals envisage the two trading platforms will be linked during next year, leading to the creation of a unified market in 2000.

The Anglo-German alliance was met with French fury when it was announced in July. Jean-François Theodore, chairman of the Paris exchange, said France was not prepared to be treated as a second-class passenger, while *Le Monde* wrote an editorial on "Bourse betrayal".

The French attempted to assemble a rival alliance with the smaller European markets in Italy, Spain, Belgium and The Netherlands. The French climbdown was preceded by the decision of Milan and Madrid to seek a place in the London-Frankfurt alliance.

The spokeswoman for the Paris bourse said: "There has been a convergence of positions. We might have had some harsh comments [because the London-Frankfurt initiative] did not fit the picture of a truly open, pan-European exchange. You can't have two people imposing the rules on others. It did not correspond to our vision."

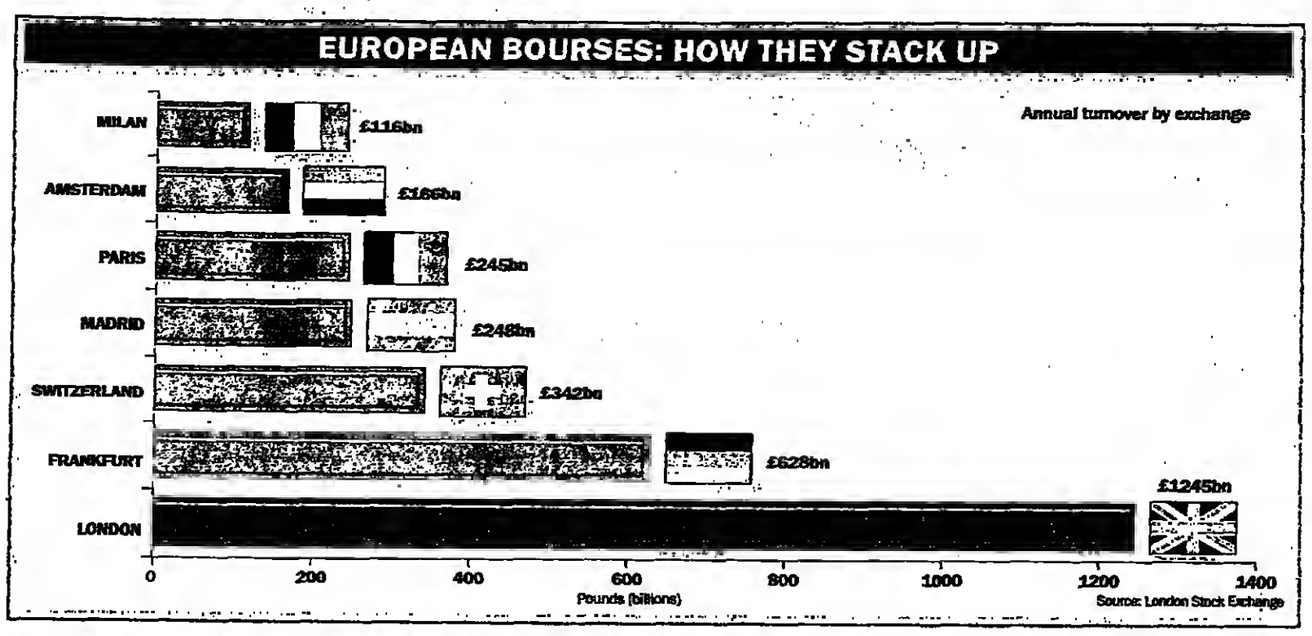
The nine exchanges are still not committed to a single market. The Swiss exchange said it did not see an urgent need to be involved and Michael Staehlim, an executive board member, said: "Between the idea and the realisation there is a very long way."

The first obstacle is linking up trading and clearing systems. There is also pressure to harmonise regulatory and ultimately tax systems.

The London Stock Exchange and leading investment banks welcomed the French decision to join the existing alliance.

CrestCo, responsible for the settlement system in London, said the European Central Securities Depositaries Association had already spent 18 months working on how best to link the various settlement systems.

Securities firms welcome the creation of a single market because it is expected to encourage an increase in the volume of shares traded. This was the experience in Hong Kong and the Philippines when they merged previously separate exchanges.



London's IPE oil market in merger talks

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

THE world's two largest exchanges trading in oil and gas futures are in merger talks.

London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) and the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) have set up a working group that may lead to creation of one exchange trading both London's Brent crude oil contract and its US equivalent, the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) contract.

Richard Ward, a director of the IPE, yesterday said that pressure from their members, mainly banks and commodity trading firms, had prompted the exchanges' move.

The two exchanges have members in common and the IPE and the Nymex are already in a strategic alliance over the creation of a common electronic platform, allowing 24-hour trade in oil futures. The two exchanges are also working on systems enabling traders to deal simulataneously in Brent and WTI contracts.

Mr Ward said that the two contracts were complementary products. "Brent is international while WTI is a North American contract," he said. "People buy the products to hedge their exposure in a physical oil market."

The merger initiative comes at a time of huge activity in oil futures as companies try to protect their position in the face of crumbling oil prices.

A spokesman for the IPE said that cost-cutting was not the main reason for the talks, although the closure of one exchange is a possibility.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5606.2	(+132.2)
Yield	2.88%	
FTSE All Share	2567.36	(+49.66)
Nikkei	14354.46	(-244.77)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9045.49	(+4.38)*
S&P Composite	1149.20	(+4.72)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(5½%)
Long bond	100⅝*	(99⅝)
Yield	5.26%*	(5.26%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⅞%	(6⅞%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	116.24	(116.34)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6680*	(1.6897)
London:		
$	1.6681	(1.6735)
DM	2.8024	(2.7906)
FFr	9.3950	(9.3558)
SFr	2.3044	(2.2982)
Yen	198.16	(203.03)
£ Index	100.8	(100.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6825*	(1.6760)
FFr	5.6425*	(5.6210)
SFr	1.3850*	(1.3800)
Yen	119.57*	(121.80)
$ index	105.9	(106.4)

Tokyo close Yen 120.58

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$11.95	($11.90)

GOLD

London close	$296.15	($297.25)

* denotes midday trading prices

Rate cut hopes boost markets

THE FTSE 100 index closed 132.2 points higher at 5606.2 yesterday as hopes of interest rates cuts and heavy institutional buying bolstered the market. Traders, however, were sceptical that the latest rise would be maintained with big gains limited to the banking and telecoms sectors in light trading. The market was also caught short by some aggressive buying from several large institutions attempting to reduce their liquidity ahead of the year end.

No credit crunch, page 30
Stock market, page 32

Bhs fall deepens retailers' gloom

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

SHARES of Storehouse fell to a six-year low yesterday when the Bhs and Mothercare retailing group delivered a grim assessment of current high street trading and gave warning that its profits were set to fall.

The shares fell 27½p to 134½p, a decline of 17 per cent. In June Storehouse shares traded at 293p.

Keith Edelman, chief executive, said: "In the past five weeks ... in the context of a very weak market, sales volumes have fallen and continue to be volatile and unpredictable."

The comments deepened gloom on the high street and came as Storehouse posted flat interim profits for the six months to October 10. It earned £38.7 million before tax against £38.5 million in the previous first half. Turnover was 2 per cent higher at £648 million but like-for-like sales declined 1.7 per cent in the Mothercare chain. Analysts rushed to cut their profit forecasts for the full year.

Tempus page 32

OFT accuses Stagecoach of price fixing

By Carl Mortished

STAGECOACH has been implicated in a secret agreement to rig the school bus market in Hull, where the local MP is John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Minister responsible for transport.

The FTSE 100 company, which owns South West Trains, a rolling stock company and countless bus firms, is accused by the Office of Fair Trading of taking part in an agreement to fix prices and carve up the market in home-to-school bus services in the city.

John Bridgeman, director general of fair trading has referred an agreement between 13 local bus operators, including Cleveland Transit, a Stagecoach subsidiary, to the Restrictive Practices Court.

The OFT is seeking restraining orders to prevent the bus operators from putting the cartel into effect.

The OFT was tipped off about the cartel by Kingstoo upon Hull City Council, which had put its school bus service out to tender. The competition authority said it found evidence that the bus operators met secretly in a hotel and agreed on minimum prices at which they would tender for the business and which routes each operator would bid for.

Pat Edwards, the OFT's legal director, said that cartels destroyed competition. "If the tenders had been accepted, the alleged agreement would have resulted in higher costs to Hull City Council and possibly higher charges for council tax payers." She said that under the new Competition Act, such anti-competitive agreements could lead to fines of up to 10 per cent of turnover.

A spokesman for Stagecoach said yesterday that it was conducting its own investigation and was co-operating with the OFT.

"We are not aware that we are involved in any price fixing. We do not support cartels. The Stagecoach philosophy is one of competition," he said.

In the past Stagecoach has been the subject to two Competition Act investigations and one reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Commentary, page 31

Eurotunnel study may get it out of a hole

By Jason Nissé

WHAT do you do if the Government asks you to build something you do not want to build? If you are Eurotunnel, the answer is: hire consultants to do a "feasibility study".

The experts appointed yesterday to look into whether it is worth Eurotunnel's while to dig a second channel tunnel are Maunsell, a UK civil engineer, and Sectauroute, a French transport planner.

Under its licence, Eurotunnel must, by the end of next year, put plans to the British and French Governments for a second tunnel. It then has the option to build it at any time up until 2020. However, the last thing Eurotunnel wants at present is to dig a second tunnel. The first cost £4.6 billion to build, opened many years late and left the company with £9 billion of debt.

Eurotunnel would not explicitly say it did not want to build a second tunnel, preferring yesterday to emphasise that the first is not expected to reach capacity before 2025. "It is difficult to ascertain the situation in 20 years' time," a spokeswoman said. "We do not want to lose the option."

Ecclestone hits Formula One TV barrier

By Jason Nissé

MAX MOSLEY, president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, the governing body of world motor sport, yesterday said he expected the European Commission to make a concerted attempt to unwind deals struck between the FIA and Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Group over the rights to televise the sport.

The media rights are a crucial issue highlighted in the listing particulars for the $2 billion (£1.2 billion) Eurobond being issued by Formula One.

The prospectus details an "acknowledgment agreement" in which the FIA states that media rights to the sport are the property of Formula One.

Mr Mosley, however, indicated yesterday that this agreement may actually be rendered null and void by Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner.

"As far as we have rights they are Bernie's rights," said Mr Mosley. "Part of the commissions case is that we do not actually have the television rights."

As part of the deal struck with Formula One, the FIA is to receive a $100 million payout from the bond being issued by Formula One. On top of this it will receive an annual royalty from the income from televising the sport — expected to be about $10 million this year — and a 10 per cent stake in Formula One, should it ever be floated.

Mr Mosley said that, if the EC rules the way he expects, "Bernie will have struck a pretty poor deal".

If Brussels rules that the FIA did not own the television rights, Mr Ecclestone may have to strike deals with the motor racing federations of all the 20 countries in which Formula One races are run.

Worries about the legal position on the television rights have been among the main concerns of investors considering buying the bonds.

Three banks asked to be co-lead managers on the bond issue — Merrill Lynch, Warburg Dillon Read and Salomon Smith Barney — have yet to decide whether they will join Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in marketing the issue.

Commentary, page 31

Sega profits zapped by turmoil in Japan

Shoichiro Irimajiri, president of Sega, introduces the company's new Dreamcast console

By Chris Ayres

SEGA ENTERPRISES, the Japanese video games giant, yesterday discovered that the computer games industry could be just as grisly as the ultra-violent products it spawns.

The company, whose computer games console has faced fierce competition from the ubiquitous Sony PlayStation, reported a devastating 76 per cent fall in half-year net profits from Y5 billion (about £25 million) to just Y1.21 billion.

Sales at Sega slipped 20 per cent from Y127 billion to Y101 billion, while shares in the company fell by nearly 3 per cent to Y2,605.

Industry experts said Sony's PlayStation had managed to hold on to its position as market leader mainly because of the availability of compatible high-quality games software, such as *Grand Theft Auto* and *Tomb Raider*.

In spite of its problems, Sega said it was confident that its new 128-bit, Internet-capable Dreamcast console would boost its performance. The machine will be significantly faster than the PlayStation, allowing users to play more complex games with better video graphics. However, rival manufacturers are also planning to release new machines in the near future.

Shunichi Nakamura, managing director of Sega, said the company hoped to sell one million Dreamcast machines by the end of the financial year (March 31), and plans to ship 500,000 units by the end of the calendar year. He added that the company would offer shareholders a commemorative Y1 dividend to celebrate the launch of the new product, in addition to a Y15 dividend, the amount the company paid last year.

Sega has suffered mainly because of Japan's troubled economy, but also because of the high value of the yen, which has hit its pricing power in overseas markets. Both Sony and Nintendo recent reported disappointing results, although Sony's PlayStation sales remained relatively strong.

Computer games consoles have recently become enormously popular with affluent young males as well as teenagers and children. At the same time, console manufacturers have fought an increasingly bitter war to control the highly lucrative market.

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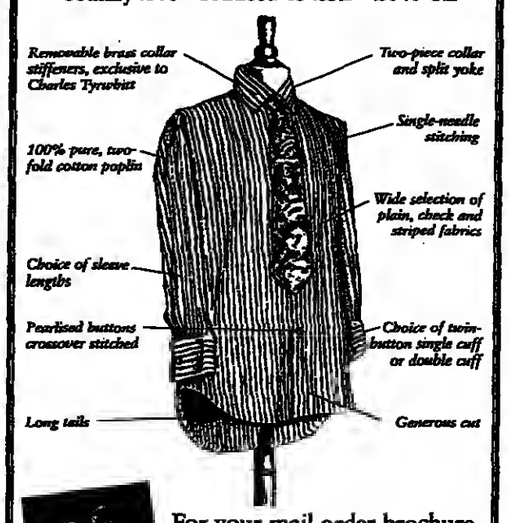

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Sterling resumes payout

Sterling Publishing Group, the publisher of *Debrett's*, is resuming dividend payments after returning to profit in the half year to September 30. Interim profits were £1.05 million, compared with losses of £5.24 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.77p a share, compared with losses of 12.61p. The interim dividend is 0.2p. The company ended the period with net cash of £1.09 million.

Roxboro purchase

Roxboro, the controls technology group, is expanding in the US with the $7.8 million (£4.7 million) acquisition of Norwich Aero Products, a supplier of temperature sensors primarily for the aero-engine market. The business will operate beside Weston Aerospace, Roxboro's UK subsidiary.

Bradford falls

Bradford Property Trust, the residential landlord, reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £15.7 million from £16.3 million for the six months to October 5. Earnings were 7.36p a share, compared with 7.64p previously. The interim dividend rises to 4.4p a share from 4.1p.

C&WC acquisitions

Cable & Wireless Communications has acquired two Irish telephony businesses, Cable & Wireless Ltd and Cable & Wireless Services, from Cable & Wireless, its parent, as part of a £30 million investment programme.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	20.73	19.07
Belgium Fr	61.01	56.05
Canada $	2.700	2.512
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8726	0.8011
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.36
Egypt	5.88	5.27t
Finland Mkk	9.07	8.32
France Fr	9.87	9.09
Germany Dm	2.966	2.724
Greece Dr	496	457
Hong Kong $	13.74	12.54
Iceland	128	109
Indonesia	16425	11425
Ireland Pt	1.1820	1.0930
Israel Shk	7.28	6.62
Italy Lira	2948	2712
Japan Yen	213.29	195.76
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.352	3.057
New Zealand $	3.21	2.97
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	300.19	278.16
S Africa Rd	10.07	9.11
Spain Pta	249.22	231.13
Sweden Kr	14.20	13.10
Switzerland Fr	2.458	2.240
Turkey Lira	509568	475699
USA $	1.775	1.632

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

STUART CONWAY

Geoffrey Maddrell samples the product of Glenmorangie, the whisky distiller, which is focusing on higher-margin cased sales

Buoyant bank lending eases credit crunch fears

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

BANK lending remained unexpectedly buoyant in October raising hopes that the economy can avoid a credit crunch and stay on course for a "soft landing".

However, economists dismissed fears that the continued strength of lending will force a delay in rate cuts, pointing to evidence that consumer appetite for borrowing is beginning to wane and a jump in building society savings inflows.

M4, the measure of broad money supply, rose by 0.6 per cent in October to leave the annual rate at 9.1 per cent, well ahead of market expectations.

The strength of money supply was confirmed by separate data from the British Bankers' Association that showed bank lending increased by £5.83 billion in October, compared with the recent monthly average of £3.1 billion.

Lending to the corporate sector was especially robust at £1.5 billion against a six month average of £600 million.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said manufacturers, property companies, wholesalers and retailers were the biggest borrowers in October. Economists said it suggested that sectors that are feeling the economic slowdown are turning to credit to see them through the downturn.

Richard Illey, UK economist at ABN-Amro, said: "These data suggest there is little danger of a credit crunch. The sustained buoyancy points to a 'soft landing' for the economy and gently falling interest rates."

Lending to the personal sector, however, slipped back with consumer credit rising by £458 million in October — the smallest increase in nearly six months. Net mortgage lending also eased lower to £891 million, compared with £978 million in September, while overall personal lending slipped from £1.51 billion to £1.37 billion.

Separate data from the Building Societies Association also showed a flat housing market with net new mortgage advances falling from £784 million to £767 million. However, savings inflows jumped sharply to record their largest growth this year at £1.12 billion compared with £871 million in September.

☐ Pay rises in the engineering sector have fallen sharply with the highest number of wage freezes reported in more than three years, according to data published today. Average pay rises have slipped from 3.4 per cent to 3.2 per cent in the three months to October while 10 per cent of companies are freezing wages, according to the latest Engineering Employers Federation pay bulletin.

Hope for arms site

By Adam Jones

THE threatened closure of the Royal Ordnance ammunitions factory at Bishopton, near Glasgow, may be averted if the Ministry of Defence spends £10 million more.

The 500-employee factory is understood to have lost out on a crucial contract, worth about £100 million, to supply gun propellant to the Armed Forces. Denel, of South Africa, is assumed to have won the order. British Aerospace, Royal Ordnance's parent, is negotiating with the MoO and Denel to get some of the work subcontracted to Bishopton, keeping it open for a while at least.

Denel is understood to want £10 million added to the contract cost for it to co-operate.

IN Business Life TOMORROW

Will continental companies become the big cheeses of British food retailing?

Interim slip as distiller reshapes its strategy

By Dominic Walsh

GLENMORANGIE, the whisky distiller, is banking on a strong Christmas to offset a 27 per cent fall in first-half profits.

Its decision to cut back sharply on bulk whisky sales in order to focus on higher-margin cased sales of its main brands meant that pre-tax profits fell from £4.57 million to £3.33 million in the half year to September 30, on turnover 7 per cent lower at £21.1 million. Earnings per "A" share fell to 17.32p (23.42p), but the interim dividend is being raised to 3.5p (3.25p).

Geoffrey Maddrell, chairman, said that the profits decrease had been planned and bulk sales now accounted for just 5 per cent of group sales, against 40 per cent previously. Conversely, malt volumes were up 10 per cent in the half year, and in the run-up to Christmas the company is spending £1 million on television and radio advertising.

Mr Maddrell said that the group was keen to strengthen its brand portfolio and had "several irons in the fire". He said smaller acquisitions, such as last year's £7 million purchase of the Ardbeg distillery from Allied Domecq, could be funded from borrowings, adding: "Should we at any point need to use equity, we would then have to address the issue of 'A' and 'B' shares."

Profits fall at Lambert Fenchurch

LAMBERT FENCHURCH, the insurance broker, saw first-half pre-tax profits fall to £1.2 million, from £7.1 million last time. It blamed increased investment and £2.9 million in exceptional restructuring costs (Marianne Curphy writes).

Earnings per share fell to 0.7p (5.4p). The interim dividend is cut to 1.45p (2.9p). The shares fell 4½p to 85½p.

Bernard Myers, chairman, said the company's markets remain difficult, with excess capital and underwriting capacity leading to rating reductions in all classes of business.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

News Corp wins £28m card ruling

THE NEWS CORPORATION has won a £28 million High Court judgment against perpetrators of a scam in which it was overcharged for supply of "smartcards" issued to Sky TV subscribers. The case — brought by five companies, led by News International, the News Corp subsidiary that owns *The Times* and 40 per cent of BSkyB — was principally against Michael Clinger, a director of News Data Security Products, partly owned by News Corp. He was found to have systematically overcharged for millions of cards needed by Sky viewers to activate their decoders in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In a complex, 173-page ruling, Mr Justice Lindsay entered judgment against Israel-based Mr Clinger for the £20.8 million overcharged, plus about £8 million interest. Judgment was also given against Michael Luzann, an associate of Mr Clinger. The defendants were ordered to pay legal costs unofficially estimated at more than £2 million.

Norcros building

NORCROS, the building products and speciality chemicals company, lifted underlying pre-tax profits 9.7 per cent to £6.8 million in the half year to September 30. Adjusted earnings rose 10.7 per cent to 3.1p a share and the interim dividend is increased to 1.2p a share from 1.1p. There was an exceptional loss of £5.6 million on the £13.7 million disposal of the Norprint businesses during the year, reducing actual pre-tax profits to £1.2 million from £6.2 million in the previous first half.

Cedar remains upbeat

CEDAR GROUP, the computer supply firm, expects "satisfactory" results for the full year despite a poor performance in the half to September 30. The interim performance showed a loss of £800,000, compared with a profit of £1.1 million last time. With turnover up 36 per cent, at £7.2 million, the company said "the underlying trend was strongly upwards". Losses per share were 1.9p, but the dividend is unchanged at 0.8p.

Insurer's UK chief

SUN LIFE OF CANADA has appointed Steve Melcher, formerly of Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, as senior vice-president and general manager of its UK operations. He succeeds Maurice Bates, who resigned in August after 18 months in the job. The life insurer also said up to 3,000 UK policyholders with lapsed policies could benefit from windfalls worth an estimated £2,000 each when it demutualises next year.

FSA appoints four

THE Financial Services Authority yesterday announced four appointments to its Board. Moira Black, formerly a partner at Price Waterhouse, Gillian Nott, chief executive of ProShare (UK), Shamit Saggar, a lecturer in government at Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London, and Keith Whitson, group chief executive of HSBC Holdings, have been appointed non-executive directors for three-year terms.

Growth at Tomkinsons

TOMKINSONS, which makes and sells carpets, yarn and floorcoverings, bucked the trend of gloomy results for home furnishing retailers and announced its fourth successive year of growth. Pre-tax profits for the year to October 3 were 17 per cent higher at £2 million. Turnover was up 11 per cent at £30.5 million, with UK sales up 15 per cent. Earnings per share were 21.4p (17.8p) and the dividend is unchanged at 11.5p.

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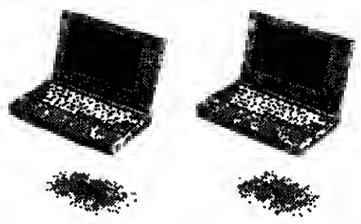

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Ignore the chequered standard

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

If Bernie Ecclestone came knocking on your door and asked to borrow £1.2 billion, you would be wary. Even if the scale of the request posed no problems, the character on the doorstep would. Sorry about this, Bernie, but the image is a bit of a handicap. Being vertically challenged is no fault of yours and neither is your incongruous choice of a towering former model for a wife. In fact, your anxiety to put aside a couple of million dollars for the benefit of your wife and family is quite endearing. But let's be honest, the Ecclestone reputation is not, on the whole, that of a warm and cuddly chap.

The way you have controlled Formula One racing round the world has given the impression that Machiavelli might have learnt a few tricks at your side. Perhaps you have been misunderstood: few people generous enough to donate £1 million to a political party have had the cheque returned. You know that the money had nothing to do with your wish to prevent any government being so foolish as to ban tobacco sponsorship of sports but the episode did nothing to enhance public perception of the Ecclestone way of doing business.

Formula One is Bernie Ecclestone, so it was brave of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to take on the task of handling a $2 billion bond issue for Formula One Group. The bank knew it would have a battle persuading investors to take up the issue but did not bargain on a peak time television programme, *Panorama*, weighing in against it. The programme exacerbated the Ecclestone factor and appears to have persuaded many investors that this is an issue that they can do without.

The Morgan Stanley team is now working overtime trying to persuade other banks that they should try to look beyond their *Panorama*-enhanced preconceptions and think rationally about the bond being issued.

What bondholders need to know is that the borrower has sufficient income to service the debt and that the money will eventually be there for redemption. Formula One's ability to generate revenue in the past has been extraordinary. There is no reason to suppose that the world's inexplicable appetite for watching expensive cars hurtle round tracks is going to dim. But the spectre dangling over Mr Ecclestone is that the ubiquitous Karel Van Miert in Brussels will stop him cashing in on the race revenue.

He is certainly likely to interfere but he cannot strip Formula One of the right that it has over the sport, only the way it is exercised. It may flow through different routes but a strong and growing revenue stream seems assured. That should mean that there will be no obstacle to a refinancing to fund redemption of the bonds, even if the Ecclestone factor precludes a flotation.

Ecclestone equity might never get off the grid but the bond issue deserves an unbiased look.

The Bridgeman thunderbolt

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, is a suspicious man. He hears tell of a friendly dinner party involving a group of like-minded people and he instantly detects foul play. Brian Souter could surely explain to him that people who operate bus companies like to get together every so often to discuss the problems they face. Bankers happily gather together and discuss the price of money without anyone suggesting they are up to anything untoward. They just tend to think the same way, when it comes to interest rates.

Yet Mr Bridgeman smells a rat in the uncannily similar tenders that the bus companies made to the local council in Hull. We must await the result of the Restrictive Practices Court investigation but, in the meantime, the phrase "carve-up" is a popular guess at what was intended.

Stagecoach subsidiary Cleveland Transit is just one of the 11 companies involved but the company's domineering position in the transport business does mean that it has to be particularly careful not to put itself in a position where it might even look to be throwing its weight about.

It has, in the past, demonstrated a rather different approach to competition, based more on massacre than co-operation. In Scotland, from where it hails, the bus wars approached the Glasgow ice cream wars in their intensity. By comparison, a friendly dinner in a local hotel would seem a civilised way of co-existing were it not for the suspicion that the aim was to operate against the interests of consumers.

Yet a degree of co-operation between transport operators will be essential if the Government is to succeed in providing the improved public transport system that is its oft-declared aim. Stagecoach rival First Group is keen to work with local authorities and rival operators to fund new bus lanes that will speed buses through heavy traffic areas. Under current legislation, such co-operation would put it at risk of a visit from Mr Bridgeman.

This is not something to take lightly. The new Competition Act which came into force last week offers draconian powers to those who want to stamp out collusion and substitute competition. Investigators will have extensive rights of search, the lack of which have until now enabled many abuses of market power to go unchecked. The OFT's acknowledgement that Hull's bus operators would have been before the RPC much sooner had the Act been in force is intended as a warning.

Ridiculous comments

Craig Barrett may have made a grave misjudgment in deciding to lambast Dixons. Admittedly the Intel chief executive was in Las Vegas, a safe distance from Sir Stanley Kalms's London eyrie, when he chose to declare that "Dixons charges ridiculous margins" but comments made at a computer industry trade fair will almost instantly be winging round the World Wide Web.

And, despite Mr Barrett's intimation that Sir Stanley's pricing policy is keeping down computer sales in the UK, it is thanks to Dixons' efforts that a huge number of Britons now have access to the Web. Dixons free Internet connection service has signed up a staggering 450,000 subscribers in the eight weeks since it was launched.

Now, Sir Stanley is a generous man, but only in his private life. When it comes to business, he gives nothing away. A free Internet connection is a considerable inducement to buy a computer. What may be irking Mr Barrett is that Sir Stanley might prefer to keep a chunky margin while offering a keen price to customers and, increasingly, that may mean selling computers that do not contain Intel chips.

Prices in the UK are still higher than in the US but this is true of designer sweatshirts and CDs as well as personal computers. Sir Stanley pitches his price where he thinks he will make maximum profit, balancing margin and volume. It is cheeky, to say the least, for those who are ultimately his suppliers to publicly criticise that.

Shadow over M&S

THE communications blackout at Baker Street continues, but Marks & Spencer is in danger of unnecessarily alienating investors if it continues to leave them wondering what is going on at head office. Maybe the non-executives are no more ready to name a successor to Sir Richard Greenbury than he is ready to be succeeded but the designation of a new deputy chairman would act as a reassuring holding position. Favourite for the role is Brian Baldock, late of Diageo.

Dialog forecast wipes 46% off share price

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in Dialog Corporation, the business information group, yesterday crashed 46 per cent from 165½p to 89p, when the company gave warning that its fourth-quarter sales would not meet City expectations.

The group, formed through the £265 million merger in 1997 of Britain's Maid and North America's Knight-Ridder Information, blamed the disappointment on recent changes to its pricing, brought about because of increased emphasis on providing its products via the Internet. These changes have upset many customers, and forced Dialog to lower some prices.

Dialog also revealed third-quarter pre-tax profits of £2.6 million, up from £1.7 million for the same period in 1997, while sales fell slightly to £42 million. It added that cost savings had been much better than expected.

Michael Mander, chairman, yesterday said: "Revenue growth has taken longer to develop than anticipated. Despite the daily growth in usage volumes, the directors currently anticipate that Dialog's revenues in the fourth quarter ending December 31 are not likely to exceed those achieved in the third-quarter."

Dan Wagner, chief executive, reacted angrily to the crash in the company's share price, which traded as high as 236½p in August.

He said: "I don't think the market price today, or indeed the market price yesterday, reflects the value of this company. We do not feel challenged by our competitors, we feel challenged by the analysts and the share price." The company's house broker cut its forecasts for year-end earnings per share from 8p to 4.8p.

Mr Wagner admitted it had taken longer than expected to reverse falling sales at Knight-Ridder, adding that sales would also be hurt by fewer business days during the holiday-laden fourth quarter.

"We were expecting to drive sales very quickly. Literally, we were going to start seeing a turnround on Knight-Ridder Information's declining sales line almost immediately. I think that was a bit optimistic," he said.

Mr Wagner, known for his upbeat forecasts, said Dialog also planned to adopt a more conservative tone on its outlook. "My tone is somewhat different now. The confidence is very high within the firm and in terms of my own confidence, I am biting my lip right now," he said.

Dialog also yesterday announced the acquisition of Write Works, an Oxford company that has developed an online purchasing and management control system for business. Dialog is paying £1 million in cash and £1.5 million in shares. A further payment of £3.8 million in cash and shares will be made if the company hits earnings targets over the next two years.

Mr Wagner said: "With this acquisition, we have bought superior software, leading suppliers and the experience of the Write Works staff. Additionally, we inherit an established customer base which we can grow significantly."

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Scapa issues second warning

By Matthew Barbour

SCAPA GROUP, the industrial sticky tape manufacturer, delivered on its summer profit warning, blaming a 16 per cent drop in first-half earnings on difficult world markets and the strength of the pound.

Oo the back of the disappointing results, the company issued a further profits warning, saying that it sees little prospect of any short-term recovery.

However, it added that the restructuring programme that was unveiled in February had delivered cost savings of £3.8 million.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell to £24.5 million (£29.2 million) on sales down 2 per cent to £254.3 million. Earnings per share were down at 7.1p (8.4p), while the interim dividend has been frozen at 2.05p.

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Danka hit by debt warning

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SHARES in Danka Business Systems, the photocopier group, plunged to a new low of 33p yesterday after the company disclosed that it may seek protection from creditors under chapter 11 of US bankruptcy laws.

Danka is weighed down by $1 billion (£600 million) of debts incurred after an acquisition spree culminating in the purchase of part of the photocopier business of Eastman Kodak. At its peak, 2½ years ago, Danka was valued at £1.8 billion but after yesterday's near-halving of the share price, the group is worth just £75 million.

Filings under US regulatory procedures confirmed that Danka had agreed a waiver of loan covenants with a syndicate of 30 banks until the end of February next year, enabling the company to borrow a further $75 million.

Danka has received a $40 million advance but the outstanding $35 million is dependent upon it producing a plan to reduce indebtedness.

In addition, the company gave warning that it did not have sufficient funds to make minimum payments to Kodak under a supply agreement for photocopier spare parts and equipment and warned that litigation could ensue. The relationship with Kodak will be vital to the restructuring of Danka.

Wasserstein Perella, the investment bank, is currently advising Danka in negotiations with Kodak, but the company said that a satisfactory renegotiation of the supply agreements could not be guaranteed. Danka also said that it needed to sell some of its businesses to reduce debt and to renegotiate its credit agreement with GE Capital.

Compulsory pensions 'probable'

By Susan Emmett

THE Government yesterday gave a strong indication that occupational pensions will be made compulsory to employees with access to the schemes as part of the plans to introduce stakeholder pensions.

John Denham, Minister of State for Welfare Reform, said stakeholder pensions will be designed for those unable to join an occupational scheme. Speaking at the National Association of Pension Funds conference, the minister said that the pensions Green Paper, expected later this year, could contain measures compelling employers to make membership of occupational schemes a condition of employment. His comments allayed industry fears that such schemes would undermine occupational pensions.

Babcock boosted by naval refitting

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BABCOCK International has lifted itself back into the black after a profits boost in its naval refitting operation.

The company, which runs the Rosyth dockyard, delivered pre-tax profits of £11 million for the six months to September 30. This compared with a loss of £14.5 million from the same period last year when the company suffered substantial provisions on the sale of businesses.

However, the company gave warning that materials handling, one of its key divisions, faced a turbulent time in some of its main markets because of the Asian crisis. However, John Parker, chairman, said the division was "well placed to manage these challenges".

The division could be bolstered by some bolt-on acquisitions in the near future. Nigel Young, finance director, said the company could spend between £60 million and £80 million on new businesses. He said any purchases would be in materials handling or facilities management — another core operation. Babcock would have gearing of 30 per cent if it spent £80 million. Mr Young said the company would limit itself to that level.

Substantial forward work at Rosyth was confirmed by the Government's strategic defence review. Improvements at Rosyth and a better performance from the company's ship refitting operation in New Zealand helped to drive Babcock's return to profits, the company said.

Babcock is about to bid for a Ministry of Defence contract for naval sonar along with Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. It has staged successful sea trials of a prototype of Sonar 2087 for the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigate.

Earnings were 5p a share, compared with a loss of 9.28p for the same period last year. The interim dividend, payable on January 29, rises 16 per cent to 0.8p a share.

Tempus page 32

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Link-up: David Gilberston, of LLP, left, and Peter Rigby, of IBC

Lloyd's List joins forces with IBC

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

LLP GROUP, publisher of *Lloyd's List*, one of the world's oldest newspapers, is to merge with IBC, the business information group, ending its brief life as an independent quoted company.

The merged company, to be called Informa, will be valued at about £300 million. Existing IBC shareholders will hold 57 per cent and LLP shareholders 43 per cent of the equity of the new company.

IBC's interests span specialist periodicals, reports, books and magazines. Its brands include *Mobile Communications International* magazine, *Screen Insider*, *Banking Technology* magazine and the GSM annual world congress. In 1997 it earned pre-tax profits of £16.3 million on turnover of £139.6 million. In the same year LLP earned £4.02 million before tax on turnover of £48.4 million.

LLP shares have performed poorly since the company came to the stock market in April. They touched 366½p soon after flotation but had fallen to 142p by the end of October. Yesterday's news lifted the shares 39p to 272½p. IBC rose 72p to 437½p yesterday.

Peter Rigby, chief executive of IBC, will become chairman of Informa. The chief executive will be David Gilbertson of LLP. Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of IBC, and Stuart Wallis, chairman of LLP, will remain as directors of the merged company.

Executives spoke yesterday of big savings through operational efficiencies and reduced overheads. New launches and acquisitions are likely.

Dixons under fire from Intel on pricing

By Matthew Barbour

THE Consumers' Association has called for an urgent inquiry into the personal computer pricing policies of Dixons after Intel, the computer chip maker, accused the retailer of overcharging British consumers (See Commentary, this page).

Craig Barrett, Intel's chief executive, said on Wednesday that the UK chain was charging "ridiculous margins" which he claims have reduced overall PC sales in the UK.

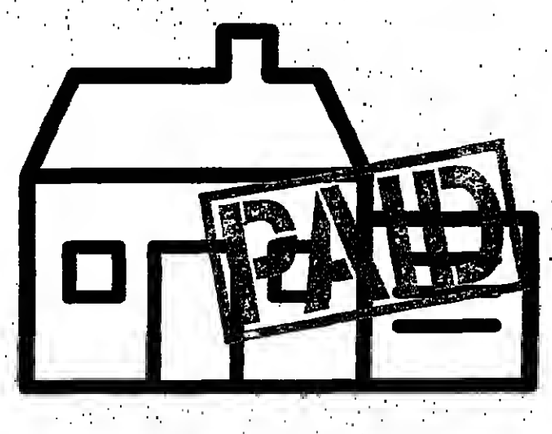
Mr Barrett said that because of its high street market share, Dixons has "a classic market presence and can determine what can get sold and at what price". Dixons subsequently dismissed the claim, saying it controls only 15 per cent of Britain's PC market, a market which also includes sales through mail order and independent dealers.

Phil Evans, the Consumers' Association senior policy researcher, argued that while most "expert" computer buyers bought directly from manufacturers or through mail order, ordinary shoppers lack expertise to get the best deal.

Dixons, which currently controls more than 50 per cent of the high street PC market in the UK, reacted to the allegations with the counter-accusation that Intel "is perhaps wrongly interpreting their loss of market share in Dixons stores as a problem in the market as a whole". Only an estimated 65 per cent of the PCs sold in Dixons stores, which include PC World and Currys, now carry Intel chips compared with about 95 per cent two years ago.

A Dixons spokesman said: "In the last six months the UK market has really taken off because of price-cutting led by Dixons. Our margins are wafer thin and almost always in single figures."

According to figures released by Context, the PC market research group, average PC prices in the UK are about a third more expensive than in the US and Germany.



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The Virgin *One* account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Assume you have an income of £30,000 a year and, after leaving enough money in your account to cover the monthly interest charge, you spend the rest of your income evenly throughout the month. Paying your income into the *One* account would reduce your borrowing and save you interest at 7.95% and this alone would repay the borrowing on a twenty-five year £80,000 loan 11 months early, saving £6,920. Now suppose you have an annual pay rise of 5%, and decide to leave an extra 1% of your total earnings in the *One* account each year, the loan would be repaid 9 years, 7 months early, saving £38,343. The *One* account must be repaid by the time you retire. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life insurance is required. The actual rate of interest you pay will depend on the amount of money you want to borrow in relation to the value of your home. For example, if you wanted to borrow £80,000 secured against a home worth £110,000, you would pay 7.95%. This is the rate as at 11.11.98. Based on this example, over 25 years a customer remortgaging a freehold home in England would pay 8.3% APR. The rate is variable. This APR includes land registration fees and our solicitor's and valuer's fees which you will have to pay. In this example these fees would amount to £432. You will also have to pay your own solicitors' fees and in the example we assumed £100 for this. All calls are recorded and randomly monitored. The Virgin *One* account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd. Discovery House, Whiting Rd, Norwich, NR4 6EL Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct Marketing Group. Examples of what you may be paying if you organize your finances all over the place are Barclaycard Standard APR 22.9% (unsecured); Lloyds Bank Unsecured Personal Loan APR 21.9% and Natwest Credit Zone Overdraft APR 24.3%. (assuming an overdraft of £1,000, monthly interest rate of 1.38% and monthly fee of £5). Source: Moneyfacts, September 1998.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers in the dark over BP sale rumours

CLAIMS that one of **BP**'s biggest shareholders may be looking to sell most of its stake saw the shares friner away an early lead.

They closed 3½p easier at 933p, after briefly touching 955½p as reports out of New York suggested the Kuwait Investment Office was looking for buyers for the remainder of its stake. At the last count, the KIO held 357.5 million shares, or 6.17 per cent. Word is one of the big Wall Street securities houses was offering up to 330 million shares, but without much success.

In London, more than 38 million shares had changed hands. But most traders appeared to be in the dark about what was going on. One said: "Once the bears in London had seen their short positions filled in, demand dried up."

Brokers said the KIO was anxious to unwind its position in BP before the merger with Amoco is concluded. It wants to reduce its exposure to the oil sector, which has been badly affected by falling oil prices.

The rest of the equity market climbed back above the 5,600 level for the first time in several weeks as investors continued to pin all their hopes on another cut in interest rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets next month.

The focus of attention again fell on leading shares with many of the gains fuelled by apparent stock shortages. This was reflected in the FTSE 100 index which closed near its best of the day with a rise of 132.2 at 5,606.2. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index was just 20.6 higher at 4,801.5. The total number of shares traded was 969 million.

Barclays Bank surged 83p to £12.73 as Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, set a target price of £15 and reiterated its "buy" stance. CL is also a buyer of **BOC Group**, up 27p to 927p. It says any worries about the impact of a faltering economy will be offset by the benefits of the group's restructuring programme

P&O was the best performer among the top 100 companies with its deferred shares climbing 82p, or 12 per cent, to 669½p on the back of stock shortages and some satisfactory trading news. The group's P&O Nedlloyd subsidiary posted third-quarter operating profits up from $25 million to $30 million.

Keith Edelman, chief executive of Storehouse, who saw shares in the Bhs to Mothercare group dive 27½p to 134½p

By contrast, **BTR** headed the list of worst performers among blue chips, down 3p to 97p after an analysts returned unimpressed from a visit to the company's operations in Brazil. Panmure Gordon is taking bearish stance while Merrill Lynch remains "neutral". A fresh round of profit downgradings is expected within the next few weeks.

A brokers' downgrading also provided a nervous start for **British Gas**, which touched 398p, before rallying to finish 7½p better at 410p. HSBC Securities, the broker, has reduced its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "hold" after their strong performance during the past couple of years.

The same broker has also moved its recommendation for **Vodafone**, up 15p to 894p, from "buy" to "add". The price is approaching the target price of 980p set earlier this year.

Burn Stewart Distillers, which supplies Asda and others with own-label whisky, has given shareholders a nasty hangover over the past couple of years, and its recent strategy of increasing prices has yet to bear fruit. But its bombed-out shares have been attracting some interest. Although the shares were unchanged at 16p yesterday, the volume traded continues to be abnormally high amid persistent bid speculation.

In the past there has been talk of a reverse takeover by William Grant & Sons, maker of Glenfiddich, but the latest chatter points to Canandaigua Brands, the Nasdaq-listed drinks group putting the finishing touches to its purchase of Matthew Clark, the cidermaker. It has made no secret of its desire to add to its spirits portfolio and Burn Stewart is eminently digestible.

Speculative support hoisted **Marston Thompson & Evershed** 13½p to 237½. Rival brewer **Wolverhampton & Dudley**, unchanged at 430p, wants to make an offer. But hopes receded when Marston's announced plans to sell-off most of its tenanted pub chain.

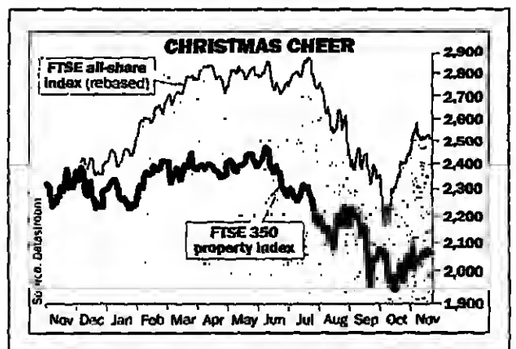
Dagenham Motors continued to push ahead with a rise of 25p at 177½p. The Ford Motor Company is poised to make an offer.

Share buying by one director lifted **JWE Telecom** 9p to 142½p. D. Hanson has taken advantage of the recent weakness in the price to pick up 5,000 shares at 137p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices failed to enjoy the euphoria being savoured by investors in the equity market. Prices traded sideways for much of the session. In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt slipped 10p to £116.24 on turnover of 23,000 contracts. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was 6p cheaper at £146.04, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished 3p lower at £106.29.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Investors were wary of blue chips in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 4.38 points to 9,045.49.

☐ Due to technical difficulties at source, the Liffe options below are Wednesday's figures.



MORE bad news from the high street. This time Storehouse reacted to news of a severe profits warning with a fall of 27½p to 134½p. Everything now hinges on Christmas.

Most brokers remain sceptical about the outlook for Christmas, especially in the wake of this week's retail sales numbers showing yet another downturn.

Consumers are a cannier lot these days and may wait until after Christmas to buy the things they really want, knowing they will pay less.

Storehouse is the latest in a long line of retailers to unsettle the City with a profits warning or lower profits. This culminated with the big profits downturn at Marks & Spencer, down 1p to 435p, and subsequent boardroom unrest.

Casualties from the Storehouse fall out yesterday included Debenhams, down 11p to 360½p, Great Universal Stores, 10p to 618p, Harvey Nichols, 6½p to 124p, House of Fraser, 5p to 67p, Arcadia, 13½p to 258½p, and WH Smith, 10p to 489½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9045.49 (+4.38)
S&P Composite	1149.20 (+4.72)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14354.46 (-244.77)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10313.30 (+99.88)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1073.16 (+19.56)
Sydney:	
AO	2680.6 (+11.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4796.63 (+86.97)
Singapore:	
Straits	1316.55 (+44.85)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3175.09 (+20.04)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3706.75 (+94.26)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1323.90 (+23.00)
London:	
FT 30	3388.2 (+75.6)
FTSE 100	5606.2 (+132.2)
FTSE 250	4801.5 (+20.6)
FTSE 350	2668.0 (+54.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2588.61 (+62.66)
FTSE All-Share	2567.36 (+49.66)
FTSE Non Financials	2629.43 (+38.72)
FTSE Fixed Interest	153.08 (+0.18)
FTSE Govt Secs	112.86 (-0.07)
Bargains	64948
SEAQ Volume	969.3m
US$	1.6681 (-0.0052)
German Mark	2.8017 (+0.0117)
Exchange Index	100.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£ ECU	1.4269
£ SDR	1.1996
RPI	164.5 Oct (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	161.9 Oct (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglian Water B	31½	...
Charriol	84	+ 6½
Collective Assets Trust	117	..
First Active	289½	.
Five Arrows Chile USD065	108½	+ ½
Five Arr Uts Cv Ln 2040	111¾	+ 1¼
Five Arrows Warrants	9	...
Garban	223½	– 7½
Guinness Flt Grd I&G	102½	..
Guinness Flt Grd I&G Inc	106½	.
Guinness Flt Grd 0 Dv Pf	105	+ ½
Honeycombe Leisure	65	...
INVESCO Rec Zero Div Pf	103½	+ 1½
INVESCO Recovery Tst	101	..
MSW Technology	86	.
Morley B	11	..
Natl Bldg Mtls Cv Pf	105	...
Natural Building Mtls	5¼	...
Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	..
Old Monk Company	53½	...
Piccadilly Growth Ts	90½	...
REXAM B (100)	97	– ½
Thistle Hotels Prf	14½	...
Xenova Warrants	13½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Advanced Medical n/p (44)	1¼	..
Bloomsbury Pub n/p (145)	4	– ½
Dares Estates n/p (3)	062	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
IBC	437½	+ 72½	+ 19.8
LLP Group	272½	+ 39	+ 16.7
Dag Motors	177½	+ 25	+ 16.3
Acorn	67½	+ 9	+ 15.3
Acatos & Hutch	135	+ 17½	+ 14.8
P & O Dfd	669½	+ 82	+ 13.9
ARM Holdings	1100	+125	+ 12.8
Azlan	52	+ 5½	+ 11.8
Utd Carriers	10	+ 1	+ 11.1
Cityview	43	+ 3¾	+ 9.5
Sterling Pub	12	+ 1	+ 9.0
Newcastle Utd	103½	+ 8½	+ 8.9
Gencor	108¼	+ 8¾	+ 8.7
Carlton Comm	457	+ 36½	+ 8.6
Schroders N/V	985	+ 75	+ 8.2
Mandarin Orntl	43¾	+ 3¼	+ 8.1

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Dialog	88	– 76½	– 46.2
Danka Bs Sys	38	– 18½	– 32.7
Storehouse	134½	– 27½	– 16.9
Hardy Oil	168½	– 19½	– 10.3

TEMPUS

More trouble in store

STOREHOUSE is a long way from being the City's favourite retailer. Yesterday's reaction to news of poor profits and poorer current trading displayed the full extent of the contempt in which the BhS and Mothercare business is held. At 134½p Storehouse shares were 17 per cent down on the day. Moreover, the shares now trade at their lowest for six years.

Storehouse is clearly being affected by the parlous state of high street consumer confidence. But the problems go deeper. Its shop brands have the musty air of the second division about them and white efforts to brighten the formats are apparently meeting with some success it is hard to see them ever having the draw of a Marks & Spencer, House of Fraser or even a Boots.

What's more, sales are weakening just as Storehouse's costs are burdened by spending on the store upgrades too. If the high street continues to sicken more discounting may become necessary, and profits will be caught in a painful pincer.

The stewardship of Keith Edelman, chief executive, does little to help sentiment. He seems to be doing the right things, and seems to say the right things, but the overall impact is not convincing. The shares trade on only seven or eight times forecast earnings per share, and with a yield not far short of double figures. At such levels the pressure to find a replacement for Mr Edelman will grow.

Feelings that Storehouse has been oversold may provide some short-term relief in the share price. A full-blown takeover bid is not out of the question but the bull arguments hang on thin threads.

Sell into any bounce.

Dialog

MAKING large acquisitions in North America can be hazardous for British companies. Ask Danka Business Systems or Premier Farnell.

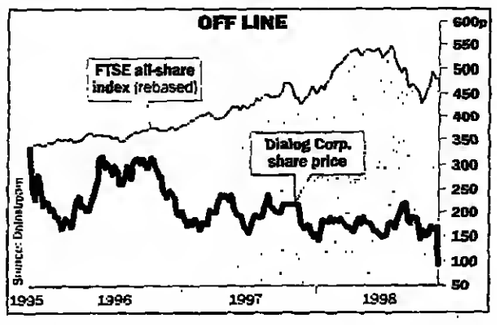
The £265 million marriage of Dan Wagner's MAID and Knight Ridder in the US may not be directly comparable, but shareholders must now be questioning whether this ambitious deal was a good idea. Shares in old MAID hardly set the world alight but stock in the combined business — renamed Dialog after its leading product — has been on the rough end of a demolition job.

Yesterday's warning finds its source in pricing. To reflect the change in the way Dialog's products are delivered — from dial-up databases to Internet-compatable search engines — prices were lifted. But customers reacted furiously, and have been pacified only by significant price cuts. The effect has been that third- and fourth-quarter revenues are falling short of target. The share price all but halved in response.

MAID may have needed to do the Knight Ridder deal, but given the company's underestimate of the amount of time it would take to sort out this pricing problem, it is reasonable to assume that Mr Wagner et al are struggling to get to grips with running such a large business.

The City is still deeply suspicious about companies that make money from the Internet, and this latest disappointment gives investors little reassurance.

Avoid.



Scapa

SCAPA has had its fair share of troubles this year. Two profits warnings have sent the share price stumbling from 231p to 100p.

As a big exporter Scapa has been hit hard by the strength of sterling. Exposure to Asia has done Scapa no favours either. Its life has been made no easier because a large chunk of its business is in the supply of consumables to paper mills, and paper producers have been suffering one of their tricky periods.

Results out yesterday showed the scars of its difficult recent history but the absence of any new horror prompted a modest rise in the share price.

The company is in the middle of a radical restructuring. Good slices of cost are coming out of the business and a future is being ground out.

The promise and spice in Scapa is sticky tape. Tape is used as a substitute in many areas — notably in auto manufacture and for sticking cats' eyes to roads. But the possible applications are endless and Scapa should benefit.

The association with paper — an almost perennial dog of an industry — will hold Scapa back, at least in the view of investors, for a while yet.

Trading on seven times earnings, and with the dividend looking safe, there is value here. But wait for the economic air to clear, and for Scapa to show more evidence that it can prosper, before thinking of buying.

Babcock

BABCOCK International has also come a long way. It has turned hefty losses into healthy profits and, largely thanks to its success with the Rosyth dockyard facility, its fortunes look fairly robust. Work at Rosyth is assured following the Government's strategic defence review.

Babcock's also owes its restoration to health on jettisoning ailing operations. The company is left with a few core divisions that are in reasonable shape but they are by no means sparkling.

Babcock gave warning yesterday that its materials handling business was encountering turbulence in some of its key markets because of fallout from the Asian economic crisis. Big hopes were pinned on materials handling but, in yesterday's interim results, Babcock had to admit that the division had only performed "satisfactorily".

Babcock should be congratulated on its recovery to date. Now that it is up and out of its hospital bed the company is also in the market to make acquisitions. It could spend as much as £80 million.

A good buy would do much to pep up enthusiasm for the shares. But any temptation to join the share register should be resisted for the moment.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	963-962	Mar	1100 SLR
Mar	1000-993	May	1117-1116
May	1020-1018	Jul	1135 SLR
Jul	1037-1035	Sep	unq
Sep	1054-1053		
Dec	1078 SLR		Volume 8359

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Nov	2125-2130	Jul	1565-1562
Jan	1642-1641	Sep	1550-1543
Mar	1620-1600	Nov	1540-1535
May	1582-1579		Volume 3195

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	242.7-40.5
Spot	243.0	Dec	246.2-43.0
Mar	245.7-45.0	Mar	250.2-46.0
May	246.9-46.0	May	254.2-45.0
Aug	248.9-46.5		Volume 3001

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	49.41	98.18	86.13
(+/-)	-4.12	-4.13	+2.81
Eng/Wales	49.41	99.76	84.75
(+/-)	-4.12	-3.65	+3.35
%	+3.0	+11.0	+28.0
Scotland	unq	95.67	94.07
(+/-)		-5.37	-0.25
%		-5.0	+32.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.50	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Jan)	11.60	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	11.95	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	12.60	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	13.20	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	127 (-3)	129 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	104 (+1)	107 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	60 (n/c)	62 (n/c)
Naphtha	125 (n/c)	129 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	104.00-04.25	Mar	114.25-15.00
Jan	108.75 bid	Apr	117.75 SLR
Feb	112.25-12.50		Vol: 19347

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	11.60-11.62	Apr	12.50 BID
Feb	11.93-11.96	May	unq
Mar	12.24 BID		Vol 25671

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	77.90	Nov	78.25
Jan	78.95	Jan	79.25
Mar	80.90	Mar	81.25
May	82.90	May	82.25
Jul	84.90	Sep	81.00
Volume: 508			Volume: 72

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar		205.0
Apr	261.0	265.0
May	unq	295.0
		Volume: 248

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Dec 49.25-49.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pnt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 98	960	955	955
Dec 98	965	960	960
Jan 99	970	960	960
Apr 99	1010	1000	999
Vol 187 lots			Open interest 2466

Index 964 -1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1569.0-1570.0	1596.0-1596.5	1459150
Lead ($/tonne)	504.50-505.00	504.50-505.00	459750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	958.50-959.00	985.50-986.00	560775
Tin ($/tonne)	5485.0-5490.0	5459.0-5460.0	95240
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1294.0-1295.0	1305.0-1306.5	1359675
Nickel ($/tonne)	4150.0-4200.0	4260.0-4265.0	71100

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	140	21	27	31	5	9	10½
(*159)	160	10	17	21	13½	18½	20
Abbey Nat	1200	106	155	187	59½	102	120½
(*1238½)	1250	82	139½	163½	80	127½	145½
Allid Dom	500	35½	56	65½	38	51½	53
(*501½)	550	15	34½	45½	59	77	82
BAA	650	42	68½	81	31½	49½	62½
(*654)	700	21½	46	59½	61½	77½	91
BAI Int	600	56½	—	—	—	—	—
(*625)	650	34½	—	—	57½	—	—
Barclays	1150	121½	166	200	63½	111	132
(*1195½)	1200	97	142	177	88	137	158
Bass	750	56	83½	102½	50	67	80
(*768)	800	35	61½	90½	80½	95	102½
Boots	550	81	114½	134½	36½	64½	82
(*583)	1000	55½	89½	120	59	79	105½
Br Aerospace	350	37	57	66	29	45	55½
(*394)	470	25½	43½	54	49	63½	72½
BP	900	84½	117	140½	36	60½	75
(*938½)	950	59	92	118½	58	85½	104
Br Steel	100	9½	14½	16½	7	9½	15½
(*103)	110	5½	10	13	13½	15	23
C&W	700	64	100½	125	91	80½	69½
(*706½)	750	43	73	102½	79	107½	125
CGU Plc	850	63½	135	157	50½	94½	113
(*880)	900	66	102½	133½	76	122	139½
Courtld	1850	155½	222½	279	76	132½	147
(*1862½)	1900	105	179½	231	134	183	220
HSBC	1450	129½	177	215½	101½	152½	179½
(*1463)	1500	104½	152	199	137½	178½	203½
Halifax	800	73½	99½	115	42	70	79
(*820)	850	49½	74	95	70	89	104½
ICI	550	59½	81	92	23	75	82
(*557)	600	35	60½	72½	70	105½	112
Lloyd Sec	800	51½	79½	88	30½	46	60
(*819½)	850	36	59	82	66½	78	93
M&S	420	37½	54	63	17	26½	35½
(*436½)	460	19½	36½	45	37	47	58½
Natl Pwr	500	57½	75½	82½	16½	26	35
(*525½)	550	29	49	61	39	49	62
Nat West	950	102	137	169½	50½	77	99
(*980)	1000	78½	105½	137	73½	102	125
Reed Intl	550	26	55½	61½	30	51	62
(*561½)	600	10	30	49½	53	77	75
Reuters	550	70	99½	119	39½	51	62
(*595½)	600	48½	75	92½	53½	77	98
Rly&Sun	460	41	65½	81	13	50½	60
(*473½)	500	23	47½	62	51	73	82½
Safeway	290	23	35½	41½	13½	23	33
(*291½)	300	13½	26½	32½	23	33	40½
Sainsbury	500	40	66	69	25	36	44
(*509½)	550	19	46	45	53½	64	71
Shell	550	35	47	57½	10½	18	27
(*554½)	600	18½	30½	43	25	31	41
SmKl Bch	700	73	103	123	23½	33	51
(*738)	750	45	78½	99	52	72	84
Sth Ctrl	600	19	110	131½	35	76	98½
(*627½)	650	56	81	110	72	102½	115½
Thames W	1113	85½	110	—	32½	53	—

	Series	Calls Nov	Dec	Mar	Puts Nov	Dec	Mar
(*1156)	1160	56½	81½	—	53	78	—
Vodafone	850	87½	127	153½	54	80	99½
(*878½)	900	64	103½	129½	76	106½	125½
Woolwich	360	25	37½	46	15	25½	30½
(*361)	390	11½	24	33½	32½	42	46½
Zeneca	2500	177½	268	332½	117	185	224
(*2346)	2600	129	218½	284½	182	254½	274
BTR	100	½	12½	15½	—	10½	12
(*100½)	110	—	8½	11½	9½	16½	18½
Blue Circ	280	18	37	45	—	15	25
(*296)	300	—	26½	34½	2	24½	35
Br Aero	475	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*475)	500	—	40½	65	25	61½	78
B. Foods	800	17	58	95½	—	54½	69½
(*811)	850	—	46½	73	39	82½	95½
Cadbury	850	48½	103	126	—	40½	62
(*898½)	900	—	76½	101½	1½	63½	87
Carlton Cms	420	1	40½	52½	—	34	45½
(*421)	460	—	24½	32	39	51	69½
Diageo	650	10½	66	88½	—	45	72½
(*649½)	700	—	43½	66½	39½	73½	100
Energy Gp	800	43	—	—	—	—	—
(*840)	850	—	—	—	10	—	—
Gallaher	390	38½	50	59	—	17	27
(*418½)	420	—	33½	44	1½	30½	42
GEC	460	21	55	74	—	29½	42
(*481)	500	—	35½	55	19	50	62½
Hanson	420	17½	45	57½	—	21	34½
(*431½)	460	—	26	38	22½	41	53½
Imp Tob	650	21	44½	63½	—	33	41½
(*611)	700	—	22½	42	39	61½	69
Invgcat	525	13	59½	—	—	38	—
(*520)	550	—	38½	66	12	51	69
Lasmo	160	1½	17	33	—	13½	19
(*164½)	180	—	9½	16	18½	24	29½
Lucas Var	200	15	32	36	—	14	21
(*215)	220	—	22	29	5	23½	31
Lucas Var	180	19½	29	34½	—	6½	10½
(*199½)	200	—	18	23½	½	14½	17½
P&O	550	44	74½	86½	—	21	37
(*594)	600	—	46½	60½	6	43	61½
Prudential	800	18	85	111½	—	53	71
(*818)	850	—	61	87½	32	82	107
Rio Tinto	650	45	94	100½	—	27½	51½
(*665)	700	—	57½	74½	5	50	77
R-Royce	320	6	25	32½	—	14½	22½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG	350	28	47½	63	10	22½	35
(*407)	420	12½	34	48½	23½	35½	53
BSkyB	460	37	67	88½	9½	31½	37½
(*482)	500	14½	36½	48	27	49	57
Br Bio	40	4	8½	11½	4	7½	9½
(*40½)	45	2	6½	9½	1	10½	12½
Centrica	110	18	15	19½	7½	6	8
(*117½)	120	4	10	15	11	13	13
Diageo	650	66	94½	115½	13½	33½	48
(*703)	700	25½	67½	90	32	61	70
EMI	300	40½	54	68	10½	24	33
(*327)	330	24	39½	56	24	38½	49
Granada	800	66	105½	128½	29	66	74½
(*836)	850	39	85	104½	51½	92	103
GUS	600	44½	68	84	15	35	43
(*629½)	650	19½	44	59	38½	61	65
Utd's TSB	750	58½	99½	125	27½	66	83
(*777½)	800	33	75	101½	52½	91½	109
Lloyds	300	14½	27	33½	11½	24	29½
(*304)	330	4	14½	21½	33½	43	47½
Rentokil	420	24½	49½	61	16½	34½	45½
(*436)	460	8½	32	44	61	57½	59
Orange	550	53½	88	111½	23	49	63
(*579)	600	26½	66	89½	41	74	89½
Reuters	1700	79	164	221½	68	129½	169
(*1708)	1800	38½	119	174	127	185	231½
Scot Pwr	600	47	69½	84½	13	32	38
(*640)	650	21½	43	58	32	47	55½
Tomkins	150	7½	13½	16½	3½	8½	11½
(*103½)	110	3½	9	12	9	13½	17
Tomkins	240	33½	54	61	6	15½	20½
(*257)	260	12½	34	31½	14½	25½	29½
Unilever	600	49½	79	94	14	31	43
(*635)	650	22	57	70	33½	55	67

November 18 Total: 37158 Calls: 19515 Puts: 17651

Strike	Calls Nov	Dec	Jan	Puts Nov	Dec	Jan
5450	157	299½	365	465	2½	120½	187½	253	—
5500	107	252½	355	424½	628	6½	134½	225½	273	425
5550	65	229	335	404½	—	17	158	226	292½	—
5600	34	340	295½	374	565½	36½	180½	246	312	464
5650	14	171½	255½	344	—	66	201½	268	332	—
5700	9½	144	236	314	505	106½	226	290½	352	531
5750	1½	124½	218½	286	—	153	253½	312	375½	—
5800	1	105½	188½	264½	450½	202	284	340	403	546½

FTSE INDEX (*5604)

*Underlying security price

November 19 Total: 11089 Calls: 5989 Puts: 5100

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 98	115.25	116.48	115.18	116.24	41357
Previous open interest 117273	Mar 99	115.46	116.57	116.42	116.41	8446
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 98	113.55	113.93	113.44	113.68	31
Previous open interest 4369	Mar 99				114.09	0
Five Year Gilt	Dec 98				106.01	0
Previous open interest 1571	Mar 99				106.16	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 98	111.40	111.75	111.26	111.70	18610
Previous open interest 55775	Mar 99	111.70	111.70	111.88	111.72	50
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 98	138.98	138.98	138.57	138.63	4380
	Mar 99	138.13	138.13	137.82	137.83	584
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 98	93.250	93.250	93.210	93.230	12067
	Mar 99	93.790	93.800	93.760	93.780	94059
Previous open interest 1142695	Jun 99	94.170	94.180	94.120	94.150	10327
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 98	96.395	96.400	96.370	96.375	62156
Previous open interest 2445317	Mar 99	96.605	96.620	96.590	96.600	43855
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 98	96.330	96.330	96.300	96.320	12388
Previous open interest 707438	Mar 99	96.600	96.610	96.570	96.595	4339
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 98	98.510	98.510	98.420	98.450	8758
Previous open interest 171122	Mar 99	98.490	98.510	98.420	98.450	6895
Three Mth Euro	Dec 98	96.345	96.345	96.335	96.335	75
Previous open interest 20898	Mar 99	96.595	96.595	96.585	96.600	50
FTSE 100	Dec 98	5625.0	5660.0	5493.0	5638.0	38967
Previous open interest 219340	Mar 99	5625.5	5666.0	5625.5	5676.0	1151

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance House 7½

Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 7½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6⅞	6⅞-6⅞	6⅞-6½	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6⅞	6⅞-6⅞	6⅞-6⅞
Interbank:	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6⅞	6½-6⅜	6½-6⅜

هكذا من الأصل

Question of MPC make-up is now purely academic

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Bank of England's bold half-point cut in rates earlier this month has temporarily taken some of the heat off the Monetary Policy Committee. The revelation that Willem Buiter, once regarded as the most hawkish member of the committee, has continued his attempt at industrial canonisation by voting for a 0.75 per cent cut has even created a new MPC hero for business and the unions to champion. Yet the clamour to change the make-up of the committee will resume should the Bank opt to hold rates steady.

The unions have been most vociferous in their criticism of the MPC membership. Ideally, of course, they would like to see a union official have the chance to argue for jobs over inflation, but not even the most die-hard general secretary believes beer and sandwiches will ever take pride of place in Threadneedle Street.

The business organisations have been a touch more guarded in their attacks, although there is no doubt that there is solid industry support for more MPC members with real business experience. As far as business is concerned, it is no coincidence that until Mr Buiter's Pauline conversion, DeAnne Julius — the former chief economist at British Airways — was the sole MPC member consistently in tune with industry thinking. The case for a "Julius mark two" has only been heightened by the fact that, for the moment at least, she appears to have been largely correct in her interest rate judgments.

On the surface, the call for more industry members of the MPC represents a typical British anti-intellectualism, a feeling that the largely academic membership of the committee means the Bank is out of touch with the "real world". Underlying this argument is an unspoken theoretical assumption that business economists will be instinctively more sensitive to growth than the inflation obsessives from academia and, to a certain extent, the City.

There is probably some truth to this claim. Business economists are more attuned to the needs of the industry and are often able to pick up trends more quickly because of their access to timely in-house data. When the economy is on the turn, and the official data becomes contradictory, this can be crucial. James Hirst, of the Society of Business Economists and a former economist at Esso, believes business economists are more likely to emphasise the risks to growth rather than inflation. However, Mr Hirst cautions that there are limits to this enthusiasm and that it would be a "dereliction of duty" to threaten long-term stability for the sake of short-term growth.

Yet there is one big flaw in any campaign to see some other business economist join Ms Julius on the MPC. Business economists are, in Mr Hirst's words, "an endangered species". In the relendess drive to cut costs, business economists have become regarded as something of a luxury and have fallen victim to the fashion for outsourcing. Where employees with formal economic training survive, is it normally at a more strategic level, turning numbers into business plans rather than providing a more general overview of the economic outlook.

British Telecom, for instance, caused a splash with its warning to the City that it believes the economic downturn is going to be worse than either the Bank or the Treasury are predicting. However, the company does not have an in-house economist, and the view was developed by BT's finance director with outside advice.

Even more telling is that ICI, a company that has suffered more than most in the current downturn, has axed its chief economics post. The company's last economist Richard Freeman, a former OECD economist, took a high-profile stance and was strongly tipped as an MPC candidate. However, Mr Freeman has now retired and ICI has chosen to rely on external advice from City firms, such as Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, and more lowly in-house number crunchers to provide advice.

There are still exceptions to this rule. Donald Anderson at Courtaulds is well-respected within the profession but has little public profile. BP still possesses a strong in-house team headed by Professor Peter Davies, who has been one of the more active economic commentators from within industry. BP also recruited Jill Rutter, formerly chief press officer at the Treasury, although the rather bitter nature of her departure suggests no Brown Treasury will consider her as an MPC candidate.

Andrew Sentence, Ms Julius's successor at British Airways, appears a more likely prospect. The former CBI chief economist is respected and, equally importantly, well known. However, Bob Ayling and Lord Marshall are proof that BA is the Government's favourite airline. Eyebrows would be raised if yet another BA employee finds a way into high office.

The dearth of candidates leaves business in something of a dilemma. Industry understandably wants more business-sensitive members of the MPC, but is no longer providing a breeding ground for economists. If Goldman's and academia are now considered sufficient to supply business with economic advice, there can be little complaint if the Chancellor draws the same conclusion.

Offshore tax havens buffeted by wind of regulatory change

Adam Jones on calls for greater accountability faced by island financial centres

Millionaires' row: Guernsey has long provided a path to tax-efficient prosperity, but now the UK is flexing some regulatory muscle on the island

WHEN the UK Government announced in January that it was looking at ways to tighten financial regulations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, there was an uproar.

In the States of Jersey, the island's assembly, a resolution was passed by 48 votes to one to protest to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, about a perceived failure to respect Jersey's right to make its own rules and regulations.

At the back of the senators' minds there was surely a fear that a draconian overhaul of financial policing would scare off the the businesses and wealthy individuals that have flocked to the crown dependency for legitimate tax planning reasons.

Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man were still reeling from an attack by the head of the European Commission's anti-fraud unit, who said the islands were good examples of how "lax regulation combined with offshore status" created ideal hiding places for illegal financial operations.

The mainland's suspicion of these financial centres had also been heightened by the row over the £12.5 million Guernsey trust set up to benefit Geoffrey Robinson, the Labour Minister, by his Belgian benefactor, Madame Joska Bourgeois.

The fruits of the controversial Government review were published yesterday — several months later than expected — and it is hard to see what the initial fuss was about. The recommendations made by Andrew Edwards, a retired Treasury civil servant, are moderately worded and lubricated by a fair amount of praise.

He says that the islands are in the "top division" of offshore financial centres: "The infrastructures the islands have developed for their international finance centres seem remarkably good for such small jurisdictions."

His contentious suggestions, particularly a call to make the islands' private limited companies file audited accounts in accordance with EU standards, tend to allow room for dilution.

Keith Harbage, a tax partner at Ernst & Young, said there was nothing in the review to alienate individuals who use offshore financial services as a legitimate form of tax planning and wealth defence. Prominent people who have used offshore facilities include Richard Branson and Anita Roddick.

Some of the Edwards recommendations will actually help protect the wealthy beneficiaries of offshore trusts. He recommends limiting the practice of having just one trustee administering the client's money, to minimise the risk of fraud. He also wants the prohibition of clauses absolving trustees from negligence. The three tax havens are also being encouraged to set up investor compensation schemes.

There is no doubt that the islands had a lot to lose from a heavy handed crackdown. Islands in Europe are often impoverished but the growth of the financial services industry has meant that Jersey and Guernsey enjoy GDP significantly higher than the UK mainland.

Jersey and its 85,000 residents enjoy a balanced budget, no public debt and unemployment lower than 1 per cent. Its smallness and affluence have also led to high inflation, unaffordable housing, hideously clogged roads and some pretty starchy restaurant dress codes but, in general, it is all upside.

Jersey, unlike the Isle of Man, is able to boast that it turned down BCCI, the international bank which collapsed in 1990, because of a suspected lack of supervision and control. It employs about 10,400 people in finance.

The 61,400 residents of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark are similarly dependent on banks, insurers and tax specialists. Guernsey even has plans for its own stock exchange, which is due to start trading later this year.

The GDP of the Isle of Man, situated in the Irish Sea, is less than the mainland but finance still employs nearly 6,000 of its 73,000 residents.

Mr Edwards found that the value of the assets and liabilities of the institutions and trusts in the three crown dependencies now totals £300-£350 billion. To watch over these massive sums, Mr Edwards wants separate financial crime units to police the islands. He is also looking for a big increase in the size of the regulatory departments, with about 20 extra people needed on each island. This is no small feat when you consider that the whole Jersey police force employs only 340.

Mr Edwards wants more on-site inspections, but he points out that growth in outsourcing of back-office functions off the islands makes regulation difficult.

Laurie Morgan, the chairman of Guernsey's Financial Services Commission, the island's regulator, says the step-up in staffing could be difficult, and not because of the extra cost.

He said: "We have very full employment. It's difficult enough to get professionals in the financial services industry at the best of times. To get people with regulatory experience is even more difficult."

Mr Morgan says the suggestion that private company accounts should be filed will be a problem. Guernsey has more than 36,000 partnerships and companies administered on the island.

He said: "Resident companies here have never been required to file their accounts publicly. Most of them are private family businesses. There would be a lot of resistance to change from domestic businesses."

He also said that many of the non-resident private companies are simply holding vehicles for private investments. One of the biggest benefits of public filing is to give customers and investors a picture of the firm they are dealing with.

A likely compromise, which Mr Edwards himself alludes to in the Home Office report, is the confidential filing of accounts with the regulator. How long and detailed they will be is anyone's guess.

Another battleground is likely to be Mr Edwards's desire for more comprehensive registration of companies.

The Isle of Man, for instance, does not vet new company registrations or require confidential disclosure of beneficial ownership. He hopes it will "seriously consider" doing this.

The Edwards report also calls on Jersey and Guernsey to make all companies report changes in beneficial ownership. Some companies incorporated elsewhere — the more loosely patrolled British Virgin Islands, say — currently escape this requirement.

Mr Edwards also wants to see a more aggressive use of the three dependencies' power to disqualify directors: "The authorities need not only to have disqualification powers but also to use them. Enforcement has so far been limited." He wants the maximum disqualification standardised at 15 years.

The regulatory boards that enforce these rules should not include politicians, he said. Although some of these politicians spluttered when his review was announced in January, on the whole they cannot be too appalled by the results, this personal slight aside.

West loosens purse strings to world poor

In 1980, Indonesia reached the point in its economic development when it became too rich to qualify for World Bank concessional lending through the International Development Association, set up in 1960 to provide financial help to very poor countries.

It is a sad mark of the severity of the impact of the Asian economic crisis that, after 18 years, incomes in Indonesia have fallen so catastrophically that the country is once again eligible for IDA lending.

To qualify for IDA loans, a country has to have GNP per capita of less than $925 (£554) a year (as of 1997). Last year, Indonesia's GNP per capita was $1,110. It is now estimated to have plunged to about $650, about the same as Côte d'Ivoire and less than Honduras had achieved before the ravages of Hurricane Mitch.

As leaders of APEC (Asia—Pacific Economic Co-operation) said after this week's annual summit in Malaysia, the economic crisis had set back decades of progress in eliminating poverty and improving access to education and health.

This forbidding backdrop clearly concentrated minds at this week's negotiations in Copenhagen to refinance IDA for the next three years and yesterday the World Bank was able to announce an IDA replenishment of $11.6 billion that was some $500 million more generous than it had expected.

Britain raised its usual percentage share of the total coming from donors from 6.15 per cent to 7.3 per cent, so matching France. Britain's contribution has therefore increased from £431 million to £511 million. Ireland, although it has a small contribution, doubled it. Japan, despite its economic problems and considerable bilateral aid and loan commitments in Asia and Russia, maintained its share.

The World Bank had been confident that a reasonable settlement could be reached, having discerned a dramatic change of mood at the annual meetings of the Bank and the International Monetary Fund early in October. Suddenly, Western industrialised economies started to take the economic crisis seriously and, at the same time, its social costs.

Taking the $11.6 billion from 39 donor countries together with repayments of earlier IDA loans and contributions from the World Bank itself, $20.5 billion is now available for concessional lending over the next three years.

Myles Wickstead, UK representative at the World Bank, said: "In a climate in which aid is terribly difficult to find, this agreement is a strong endorsement of IDA and our efforts to reduce poverty."

However, there remain concerns that the IDA facility may not be large enough given the potential re-emergence of Indonesia as a borrower as well as Nigeria if elections next year yield a government with which the international community feels that it can work.

IDA donor countries said that they would aim to direct 50 per cent of the new funds to sub-Sahara Africa and did not want to be diverted from this by the problems of Asia.

Many African countries have been making strides towards more competent government, highlighted more strongly than ever before yesterday as a prerequisite for obtaining IDA financing. IDA deputies want to reward those efforts.

In reality, claims from Asia may not be too large. Indonesia excepted, the worst hit countries remain comparatively well off. Poor Asian countries that have long been eligible for IDA escaped the whirlwind because they had never attracted the attention of Western capital in the first place.

JANET BUSH

The collapse of the rupiah led to long food queues in Jakarta

Bull run ends

BAD news for Anthony Bull, the blameless property man who has served for almost 30 years as one kind of councillor or other at the Corporation of London. Bull is one of those long-time opponents of the regime at Guildhall who have so far been shut out of the centre of power, but it had been assumed that his chance might at last come around next summer.

That is when the next elections for sheriff come around, a post that is a prerequisite to becoming Lord Mayor. As I have mentioned before, the indications had been that the powers-that-be might finally have been prepared to let him have his place in the sun.

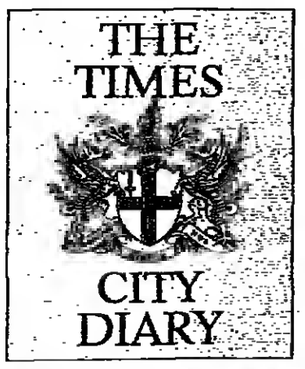
But now a new candidate has emerged. Hugh Harris, 62, was director in charge of personnel at the Bank of England until he retired in 1994 and is now director of operations at London First.

He tells me he will be throwing his hat into the ring. With a background like that he is very much the establishment candidate, I suppose, and likely to be favoured by the members of the livery companies, who are the ones with the vote.

"Wicked! I've just wiped out the profits of Sega"

I ALWAYS appreciate the efforts of the Merrill Lynch utilities team, who put an engaging cartoon on the front of their otherwise solid research document.

This month's has the good ship "Equity Markets" sinking on the horizon and the lifeboats pulling away, manned by the members of the team.



Left clinging to the iceberg are two men, Bowers and Allworthy, and a female figure, Shipton. None seem long for this world, while the utilities people row past, unconcerned.

So who are Bowers, Allworthy and Shipton, and what have they done to be marooned? Chris Rowland at Merrill tells me they are the strategy team there. "They are OK — they'll survive," he says, rather callously, I think.

But he is not revealing the identity of the other character in the cartoon, the man in glasses in the water about to go under for the last time. I suspect a senior manager at Merrill might recognise himself.

Leaking Net

THERE has been great concern in Whitehall about earlier leaks of the Edwards review of financial regulation of offshore tax havens. The leaks started in late September, and it was clear that the report, or at least a draft form of it, was being widely circulated among the press.

At yesterday's briefing on the review a journalist referred proudly to "my leaked document". Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister responsible, asked him, more in hope than in expectation, where he had got the document from. And a voice piped up from the back: "It's been on the Internet for weeks."

Indeed so. Someone close to the negotiations had posted it there, except that it differed from the real thing in one significant aspect. The proposals on publishing full accounts were far stricter than those the Home Office is now envisaging.

This rather suggests that, far from taking a hard line on offshore chicanery, the Government has had to back down at the last moment. Now, I wonder in whose interest it might be to give that impression?

Cash call

SOMEONE is taking the millennium bug seriously. Staff at Reed Elsevier have just received a pull-out in their company magazine, titled Countdown 2000. It lists the steps they are advised to take late next year.

Remember, Reed publishes *Computer Weekly* and other specialist titles that ought to know what they are talking about. Staff are advised to make sure they have hard copies of tax returns, utilities bills and other financial records. They are to contact their bank, insurance company and GP (!) and ask all of them if their computerised records are bug-free.

Also, "ensure you have enough cash to last for the first few weeks of the new century". Weeks? The joke going around the firm is that Reed has no intention of paying them until March, just to be on the safe side.

FROM a list of anagrams doing the rounds of the electronic ether: Performance related pay — mere end of year claptrap.

Card trick

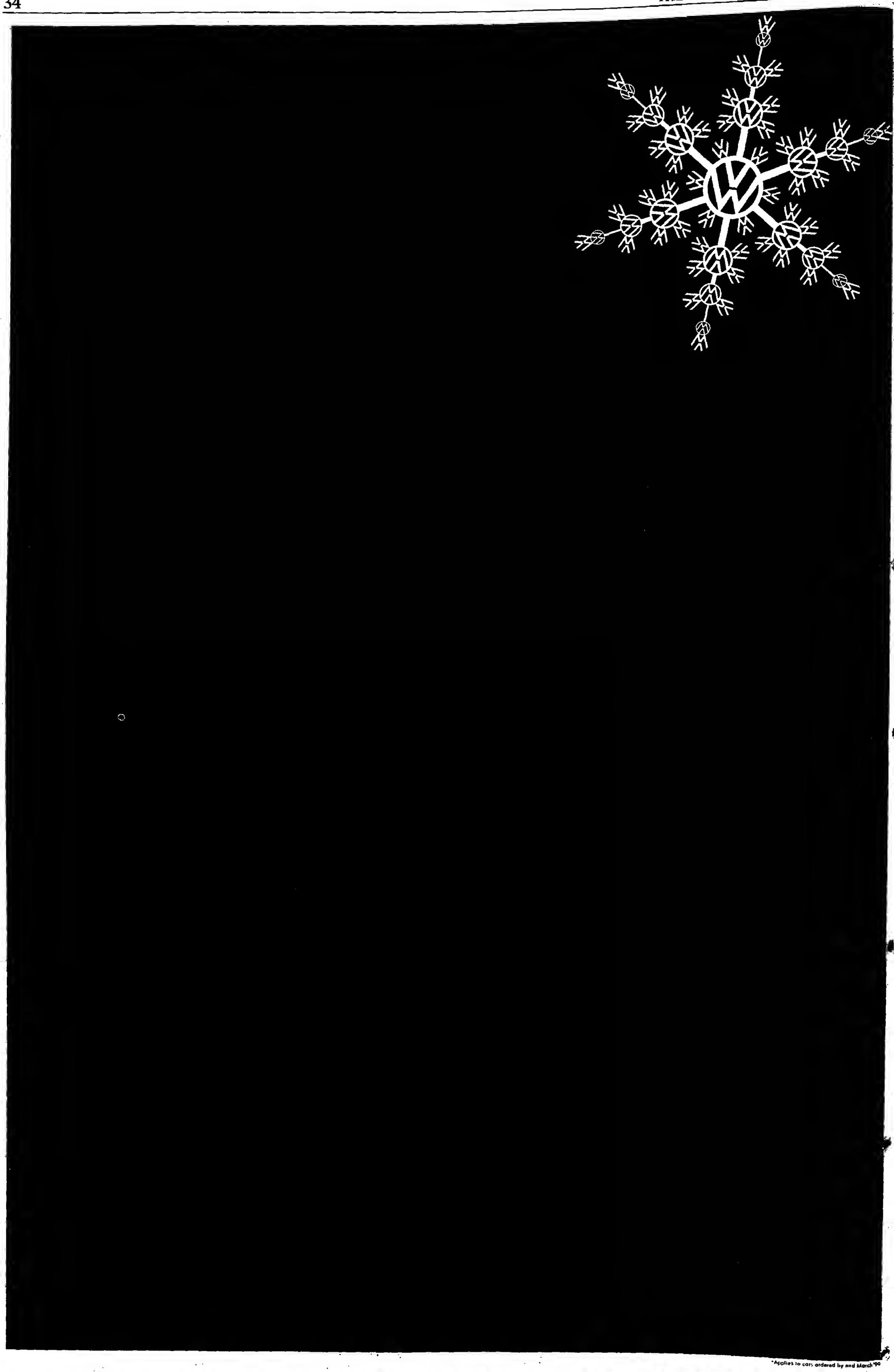
SIR RONNIE HAMPEL gave his farewell speech as chairman of ICI at the Chemical Industries Association last night. He recalled how he had worked for ICI for almost two thirds of the company's lifetime. And how he nearly didn't make it through the first year. Hampel was a lowly commercial trainee in Bristol. His instructions were that whenever a client rang, he was to pull out their card and follow the wording on it without fail.

The phone rang, and he pulled out what he thought was the client's card. It read: "Problems with late payment — make sure you get payment before delivery."

He sent off a letter to this effect, and was subsequently summoned to head office. To be asked why he had refused an order from the mighty IBM.

MARTIN WALLER

Sir Ronnie Hampel: Recalls sticky moment early in his career at ICI



*Applies to cars ordered by end March '99

The Passat Saloon SE and Sport, now with free air conditioning.* And not just any old air conditioning. Hot or cold outside, a clever little sensor on the dashboard ensures you're always just right. Our boffins call it Climatronic. If you'd like a brochure telephone 0800 333 666.

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Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	386	Allied Domecq	514	- 12	4.9	13.9
412½	201½	Bolney (BP)	355		5.3	16.5
42½	7	Burn Stewart	16½			
758	432	Diageo†	698	+ 28½	2.9	20.9
900	685	Glenmorangie A	890	- 7½	2.6	18.6
326	225	Highland Dist	250		4.6	11.1
243	115	Matthew Clark	240		6.0	8.2
59½	22½	Minerva W	29			
2021½	725	SA Breweries	1116½	+ 16½	3.2	15.5

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	863½	ABN-AMRO	1196½	+ 21½	3.4	13.5
1345	980	Abbey Nat	1208	+ 21	3.2	18.7
1032	565	Alliance & Leic	905	+ 17	3.1	17.1
1000½	587½	Allied Irish	909½	+ 5	2.1	25.3
459½	293½	Aust New Z	395	+ 9	5.4	
6075	3237½	Banc Americas	3671½	+ 18½		
813	431	Bank Scotland†	630	+ 46	7.1	15.8
1986	1027	Barclays†	1773	+ 83	3.0	11.7
1332½	882½	Bk of Ireland	1168½	+ ½	2.4	18.1
1771½	1565½	Commerzbk	1731½	- 3½	3.2	
540½	218½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	409½	+ 3½	1.0	
5369½	2905½	Deutsche Bk	3671½	+ 48½	1.7	
1206½	1134½	Espirito Santo	1169½	+ 3½	3.2	
531	112½	Fuji Bank Y	256½	- 4½	1.1	
2073	980	HSBC	1523	+ 75	4.3	13.9
2002	937	HSBC HK	1449	+ 78	4.5	13.5
1800	948½	Halifax	845	+ 24	3.0	23.2
935	587	Irish Perm	817½	+ 31	3.0	23.7
1000	555	Lloyds TSB	803½	+ 25½	2.9	23.1
1016½	667	Nat West Bk	898	+ 17½	4.5	
1244	994	Nat West	1032	+ 42	4.0	17.7
673	451½	Northern Rock	575	+ 14	2.4	19.3
1140	551	Rbl Bk Scot	839	+ 33	3.3	15.6
1050	355	Standard Chart	687½	+ 36½	3.1	11.2
6164½	2164½	Wells Fargo	6164½		1.9	
439	306	Westpac	384½	+ 11½	2.1	
400	300	Woolwich	361½	+ 2	3.4	17.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
332½	225	Ann Street Grpt	260		5.5	8.4
1199	625	Bass	750	- 15	4.7	13.0
81½	39½	Bts for the Bt	39½	- ½	5.3	12.9
191½	129½	Burgomaster Brw	151½	+ 1½	5.4	9.5
162½	60½	Cav Cnsrt Rest	64		6.1	9.8
700	290½	Compass Gp	631	+ 12	0.9	41.5
342½	134	Eldridge P A	160½		4.9	1.8
304½	225	Enterprise Inns	325		3.3	
562½	425	Fuller Sm A	470		3.0	15.3
538	263½	Greenalls Grp	346		6.2	8.2
760	507½	Greene King	516		4.4	6.4
398	189	Grouge Chsr Ger1	194		2.4	12.4
281½	234	Hardy Handa	253	+ 1½	2.6	14.7
2175	1625	Hnt J	1610		5.1	7.6
76	33	Inv Business	42		5.6	5.7
317	228	Mansfield	230½	- 2	4.5	6.0
360½	169	Mitchm Thmp	271½	+ 13½	4.9	10.4
470½	342½	Morland	360	- 2½	4.4	9.5
384½	198½	Old Eng Pub†	249½		1.0	14.6
35	18½	Paramount	18½			
850	562½	PizzaExpress	774	+ 4	0.7	29.2
377½	165	Ransomes (W)	195		1.2	20.5
388½	108	Regent Inns	118½	- 1½	3.9	3.3
237½	106½	SFI	141	+ 1	1.1	11.9
950	653	Scot & Newc	733	- 7	4.0	13.0
303½	136½	Shg & Leisure	175½		4.5	22.0
361	193	Vaux Group	343½	- 2	5.8	10.1
342	145	Wetherspoon JD†	198½	- 1½	1.4	20.0
1145	690	Whitbread†	782	+ 5	4.2	13.7
569½	363	Wolverhmptn D	430		5.6	9.2
548½	208½	Yates Bros	309½	+ 1	1.5	11.4
857½	557½	Young A	845	- 5	3.2	19.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
79½	49½	Aggregate Indst	67½	- ½	3.0	20.5
268	180	Anglian Group	198½		6.3	10.8
447	195	BPB	268	+ 10	4.1	12.8
118½	68½	Bguargate Bs	76½	- 4	5.9	6.3
62½	29½	Blockleyst	37½		1.5	
407	235	Blue Circle†	508	+ 5	4.9	10.5
149	74½	Brockton PLC	86	+ ½	6.7	0.2
945	641	CRH	914	+ 8	1.2	22.6
82½	42½	Caledonian Ppy	54½		0.1	4.6
155½	94½	Cape	94½		6.0	7.3
215½	110½	Caradon	110½	- 8½	9.3	9.6
116½	93	Caradon pf†	64½		9.6	
159½	44½	Chesham Gp	50		10.6	3.8
106½	57½	Dyson (JB.0)	76	- 2½	6.9	10.0
69½	32½	Eurotunnel	34½	- ½	2.1	6
197½	115	Epwin	121½		18.3	6.3
158½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy	129½		4.0	10.1
200	107½	Graham Grp	132		5.8	11.2
212½	157½	Hubtasd 1/1†	182½		7.6	11.2
460	245	Hanson	455	+ 20	3.3	14.3
265	134	Hepworth†	159½		7.1	44.8
178½	96½	Howeson	122½	- 1	7.3	8.7
294½	167½	Heywd Wtn	213½	- 1	6.1	7.4
794	461½	Hyndpoint	649		3.0	11.7
110	113	Bett Blck	185		5.9	6.7
315	180	Boot (Hemp)	185		5.9	6.7
216½	157½	Bovis Homes†	219½	+ ½	5.4	10.9
457	301	Brazennse Grp	361		5.8	5.4
169½	76½	Brndt	85½		7.7	6.5
129½	95	CALA	95½		5.8	5.8
141½	83½	Crane T	95		8.7	9.7
42½	15	Cordon	20			
125½	85½	Crosby Lnds	79	- 3	5.1	6.2
149½	90½	Crst Nicholson	102		4.9	8.7
122½	68½	Cussins	78½	- 3	7.4	5.1
288	160	Evc Group	194		4.5	10.9
105	78½	Fairview Hmds	80	- 1½	6.2	3.7
52½	15	Galliford	17½		0.7	7.3
1100	650	Gleeson (MJ)	812½		3.1	10.6
175	31	Henderson Eurot	34		17.5	4.5
212	126	Hewden-Stuart†	131½	- 3½	3.7	14.5
58	16½	Howard Hldgs	17½		0.7	
638½	425	Ivcon	630½	+ 1	16	23.8
265½	140½	Kier	181		3.7	11.4
250½	189½	Kier†	215½		4.6	9.5
164½	35½	Lang (J)	203½		4.6	11.2
157½	105	Lang G & Co Pl	121			
15	6½	Lovell (J)	12½			
212½	155	Marston (J)	209		3.8	12.1
151½	106½	McAlpine (J)	137	- 2	2.0	7.4
191½	110½	McCarthy & S	141	- 1	4.1	
142½	70	McKechny	116½		11	13.3
257½	160	Morgan Sndall	161½		3.6	9.0
397½	296½	Morrison Const	315½	+ 2	2.3	15.9
150	77½	Newbry (JH)	109½		3.1	9.4
253½	139½	Persimmon	177	- 2	7.1	7.7
174½	86½	Pettemicus	88½		5.8	6.2
129½	106½	Redrow	106½		4.1	12.6
159½	54½	Redland	101		5.1	5.8
850	562½	PizzaExpress	774	+ 4	0.7	29.2
377½	165	Ransomes (W)	195		1.2	20.5
388½	108	Regent Inns	118½	- 1½	3.9	3.3
237½	106½	SFI	141	+ 1	1.1	11.9
950	653	Scot & Newc	733	- 7	4.0	13.0
303½	136½	Shg & Leisure	175½		4.5	22.0
361	193	Vaux Group	343½	- 2	5.8	10.1
342	145	Wetherspoon JD†	198½	- 1½	1.4	20.0
1145	690	Whitbread†	782	+ 5	4.2	13.7
569½	363	Wolverhmptn D	430		5.6	9.2
548½	208½	Yates Bros	309½	+ 1	1.5	11.4
857½	557½	Young A	845	- 5	3.2	19.9

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191½	69	Albright & Wilf	83½	- ½	8.6	6.5
142½	77½	Amoco Ind	128		5.6	10.8
118	60½	Ashburton Gp	78½		2.9	12.0
100	47½	Albiane Ca	62½		1.3	10.2
3153½	2003½	BASF Dtl	2389½	- 9½	3.3	
1109	680	BOC	937½	+ 27	3.6	50.5
581	214½	BTP	385	- 3½	4.9	17.5
26½	10	Bonnes Chemi	11½		13.0	4.4
3221½	2189½	Bayer DM50	2450	+ 6½	2.5	
193½	137½	Blagden	188½		4.2	12.1
126	77½	Bush Chemst	86	- 2½	4.1	12.0
342½	197½	Br Vita	234½	+ 1	4.8	11.1
1340	754	Burmah Castrl†	909	- 3½	3.8	13.7
236	148½	Canning (WH)	236		3.9	14.7
229½	155	Cmy Technology	201½	+ ½	3.3	
469	304	Croda	355	- 6½	4.1	14.0
370½	203½	Deeflex	370		3.0	14.9
178	77½	Dencmrts	99	- 1	2.9	12.8
313½	165½	Ellis & Everard	206½		6.4	8.4
78½	53½	Euro Colour	64	- ½	5.1	10.2
94½	38½	Hedgcoxe†	60	+ 1½	2.7	0.9
3216½	2056½	Hoechst	2793½	+ 100½	2.0	
1244	412	ICI	550	- 5	5.6	21.0
362	189	Jasper	343½		2.5	18.9
193½	80½	Laion	91		6.5	15.2
650½	396½	Lporte	466	- 1	5.2	16.0
75	25	Minorcism	43½	- ½	0.9	41
35	18	Mentorex	20½		8.5	5.3
380	125	Porvair	137½		5.8	7.6
331	100	Scapa	164½	+ 4½	2.7	7.4
2152½	1413½	Sakeus Chem	2013½	- 29	0.5	42.7
238	115	Vctnr	181	+ 6	3.4	14.4
685	480	Wtshrhme R	491½		6.9	7.6
329	108	Yule, Grp	129½		9.3	10.8
440	208½	Yule Catto†	268½	- 1	4.5	16.0

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
59½	19½	AAF Inds	50½			6.5
375	220	Abbey	325		4.5	7.8
480	293½	Allen	349½		3.9	14.2
211½	114	Amec†	127½	- 2	4.1	13.3
672	400	Amec	672½		2.1	18.1
260	130	Andrews Sykes	160		2.5	15.2
286½	117½	Johnson	160½	- 8	1.0	16.0
49½	30½	Avonsdale†	37		5.9	5.9
46	26½	Bandt	31		8.1	6.9
341	155½	Barratt Devt	211½	+ 3	5.9	7.8
235	128	Beazer	170	+ ½	5.4	8.5
401½	237½	Berkeley	263	- 4½	4.6	7.3
95½	46	Ben Bailey	55	- 2½	5.7	4.4
296½	461½	Berkeley Gp	504	- 2	2.5	6.4
110	113	Bett Blck	141½		6.6	6.7
315	180	Boot (Hemp)	185		5.9	6.7
216½	157½	Bovis Homes†	219½	+ ½	5.4	10.9
457	301	Brazennse Grp	361		5.8	5.4
169½	76½	Brndt	85½		7.7	6.5
129½	95	CALA	95½		5.8	5.8
141½	83½	Crane T	95		8.7	9.7
42½	15	Cordon	20			
125½	85½	Crosby Lnds	79	- 3	5.1	6.2
149½	90½	Crst Nicholson	102		4.9	8.7
122½	68½	Cussins	78½	- 3	7.4	5.1
288	160	Evc Group	194		4.5	10.9
105	78½	Fairview Hmds	80	- 1½	6.2	3.7
52½	15	Galliford	17½		0.7	7.3
1100	650	Gleeson (MJ)	812½		3.1	10.6
175	31	Henderson Eurot	34		17.5	4.5
212	126	Hewden-Stuart†	131½	- 3½	3.7	14.5
58	16½	Howard Hldgs	17½		0.7	
638½	425	Ivcon	630½	+ 1	16	23.8
265½	140½	Kier	181		3.7	11.4
250½	189½	Kier†	215½		4.6	9.5
164½	35½	Lang (J)	203½		4.6	11.2
157½	105	Lang G & Co Pl	121			
15	6½	Lovell (J)	12½			
212½	155	Marston (J)	209		3.8	12.1
151½	106½	McAlpine (J)	137	- 2	2.0	7.4
191½	110½	McCarthy & S	141	- 1	4.1	
142½	70	McKechny	116½		11	13.3
257½	160	Morgan Sndall	161½		3.6	9.0
397½	296½	Morrison Const	315½	+ 2	2.3	15.9
150	77½	Newbry (JH)	109½		3.1	9.4
253½	139½	Persimmon	177	- 2	7.1	7.7
174½	86½	Pettemicus	88½		5.8	6.2
129½	106½	Redrow	106½		4.1	12.6
159½	54½	Redland	101		5.1	5.8
136	124½	Rotherm	131½		1.5	18.3
224	122½	Sanderson	137½		1.5	11.1
82	49½	Swan Hill	110½		8.8	7.5
172½	101½	Try Homes†	157	- 2½	7.3	10.3
229	133½	Taylor Woodrow	234	- 1	5.0	14.2
306	185	Tilbury, Douglas	195		1.7	47
33½	14½	Try Group	15½			
87	58½	Vectaplant	60		8.4	
113½	85½	Wilkinson†	102½		5.9	7.8
60	25½	Ward Hldgs	25½			10.6
217½	145	Westbury†	191½	+ 1	5.0	7.6
16	10	Wiggins	12½			198
191	106½	Wilson (H)	169		5.7	9.5
175	85	Wilson Bowden	114	+ 1	3.0	10.2
117½	85	Wimpey G			6.4	7.8

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
257	165	Action Co Sds	205		1.8	
125	145	Adam & Harvey	154½	- 2	15.4	3.5
2	9	Alexandra	15½			16.2
1		Ass Br Foods	1		0.7	9.2
506	376	BBG Group	51		1.8	7.4
41	31	Bernard Matthews	31			
3		Bright Ai	3		3.5	2.5
8	2	Brown (A)	3½	- 6	1.0	
1		Brownlee Gp	6		0.4	6.9
65	45	Bunzl	54½		3.7	9.2
70	54	Burnett & Hallam	63		5.3	7.0
25	14	Cantors	25			0.7
133½	75	Tanmast	107	+ 3½	8.6	11.8
125	72	Filton	81		6.2	8.1
630½	373	Forbes Petrlm	435	+ ½	3.3	12.5
107½	68½	Fortis	80½		7.2	5.9
372	164½	Ultramarine	199½	+ ½	2.2	16.0
570	253½	Wolseley	345	- 4½	4.7	10.3

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
661	210	Br Energy	620	- 5	3.1	20.1
477	291	Midland Grid	458½	- 3½	3.3	23.2
700	470	Midland Pwr	555	+ 15	6.1	11.8
901	701	Powergen	863	+ 16	4.4	12.8
968	540½	Hydro-Elect	693	- ½	3.5	15.4
670	475	Scottish Power	550	+ 12	4.1	15.5
710	467	Southern Elec	696	+ 3	4.3	10.6
666½	522	Viridian	658	+ 1½	4.4	15.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1325	715	ARM Holdings	1100	+125		
410	233½	Acal	295		4.8	10.4
1492½	562½	Admiral	850	+ 7½	0.5	30.9
58½	21	Aimtcraft	35	- ½	1.8	
35	25	Arlen	29½		5.6	40.9
129½	35	Aztec	40		3.1	4.5
77½	33½	Aztec	53	+ 5½		
182½	36½	BCOM	61	- 1	16.4	
460	250	Black	358½		5.1	11.7
604½	306½	Bowthorpe†	388½	+ 2½	3.1	14.4
18	9½	Burglin Ar	13½		11.8	11.1
205½	125½	Dall Micro	126½	- 1	6.9	11.9
27	9½	Channel Hldgs	11½		11.9	7.3
51	38½	Charlotte	44½		22	13.5
912½	445	Chrtchley	577½		3.1	13.8
342½	98	Dialoil	130½	- 6½	12.3	6.2
451	392	Domino	405		3.9	13.8
77½	38	Dowding Mills	44½		9.3	12.9
301	240	Dwks	257½		5.0	20.8
1250	659½	Electrocomp B	871½	+ 10½	10.6	23.5
29	17	Emess	20½		3.7	16.5
2006½	903½	Exclusive B	1543½	+ 34½	0.0	34.0
590	230½	Fancy Group	386		4.1	10.3
567½	380	Filtronic	489	+ 9	0.5	28.7
18½	7½	Forward Tech	15½			
517½	338	GEC	508	+ 26	2.8	21.9
49½	14½	Int Control	15½			
22	14	Inntek	14		8.0	11.2
215	139½	Jasmin	144½			6.8
92	48½	LPA	61	- 1½	4.8	19.8
1004½	421	Mbd	468½	+ 5½		
555	250	MCI	298½	- ½		
160½	30	Network Tech	32½		0.0	37
372	162	Oxford Inst	200½		4.8	10.2
111	23½	Pace Micro	69	+ 3	0.7	
627½	256½	Philips Lmp Dr	4146½	+ 200½	1.5	14.2
980	39½	Plasmon	79½	+ 2½		
311½	165	Prosecr1	192½		3.1	11.4
60½	13½	Prestwick	17		2.9	
725	204	Psion	440	- 7½	0.7	42.1
437	245½	Racal Elect	307	- 8½	2.4	
97½	37½	Racamech	45	- 1½	7.0	6.2
505	329	Renishaw†	364½		3.4	16.5
9½	0½	Redstone	1			
292½	157½	Reuters	219½	- 3½	4.3	10.3
377½	142½	Servomex	157½		7.5	9.4
59½	31½	Sensyme	36½		5.8	6.2
5012½	3343½	TPK	4745½	+ 121½	0.8	14.4
72½	45½	TCI	57	- ½	6.2	6.5
184½	68½	TLG	174		2.6	31.4
48½	5½	Tadpole Tech	9½			
67½	27½	Telnetwork	46½	- ½	4.3	
365	33½	Telspec	34½		0.4	5.0
159½	109½	Thorpe FW	137		4.8	6.4
159½	42½	Total Systems	49½	- ½	4.2	7.3
18	5	Ultima Networks	9½			
48½	13½	Vigilant Technology†	23½		4.8	9.4
660	430	Vislor	490		8.5	11.5

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312½	62½	ALSTOM	135		4.2	
2125	1112½	ALSTOM	1400			15.2
44	16	ASW	19	- 1½		
255	98½	Aluntsc	111	- 7½	6.0	6.2
227½	123½	Alvst	175½	+ 3	3.5	20.2
385	207½	Assd	241½		5.8	8.9
176½	114½	Ash & Lacy	118½	- 1½	8.3	8.0
136	23½	Ayrshire Metal	33½		6.3	3.8
535½	285½	BBA	330	+ 8½	2.5	12.3
230½	91½	BTR†	97	- 3	6.0	12.9
97½	57½	BBG	96		9.1	5.0
92½	48	Babcock	63	+ 2	3.1	5.9
13	6½	Bailey (CH)	7½		4.2	
27½	7½	Bestwood	4½		13.9	
261½	155	Bendtnd	186	- 1½	5.5	5.6
109	12½	Bertell Cr Un Ln	80½	- ½	6.2	
1285	677½	Bodycote	840	- 32½	1.5	11.5
54½	35½	Booth Inds	41½		16.4	
141	75½	Bridgeon	82½		7.8	6.8
587	300	Br Aerospace†	547	+ 6	4.2	20.6
172	92	Br Steel	102½	- ½	12.5	8.8
158½	71½	Brooke Tull	93	- 2½	7.1	5.9
16½	4½	Brunel	7½		7.4	
107½	68½	Bullough	71		10.2	6.6
26	10	Carbon	11	- 1½	11.0	59.2
217½	87½	Cardo Eng	102	- 3	13.5	5.2
233½	165½	Cookson	198½		3.7	10.9
272½	172½	Chamberlin Hill	197½		6.1	7.2
780	225½	Charter	294	- 3	11.1	10.5
175½	109½	Chemring	118	- 1½	5.2	
215	48	Clyde Blowers	166		5.4	11.8
1247½	565	Cobham†	772½	+ 2½	2.2	18.6
430	165	Cohen (A)	145			
279½	85½	Cookson†	116		8.1	6.9
390	151	David Brown	206		2.7	15.9
32½	16	Deco	16½		1.7	8.1
50	16½	Energy Tech	27		6.9	
28½	11½	Europtrec	11½		9.6	7.5
161½	108½	Expamet	118½	+ 3	4.1	9.7
228½	101½	FKI	157	- 6½	6.5	7.6
218	165	Fenner	104		5.4	
21	7½	Ferrum	7½		2.3	17.6
47½	31½	Filtrona	41½	- 2½	16.1	7.4
43	16	Firth Hldgs	18½		1.5	46.3
45½	7½	Fitzr	8½			
116	60	GD Inv	60		7.7	5.9
206½	146½	Gaston Engr	151		0.8	5.1
331½	140	Glynwed	159½	+ 3½	10.3	6.6
49½	34½	Haden Mach	49	- 5	0.2	5.0
255	145	Hadleigh	145	- 7½	6.5	7.8
257	88	Hall Eng	101		10.3	4.3
140½	95½	Halma	127½	- 1½	2.6	15.0
103½	47½	Hamson	54	- 1	6.1	6.0
65½	32½	Hay (Norman)	43½		5.2	0.3
63½	29½	Heatwave†	37		5.7	5.0
71½	39½	Hill & Smith	36½		14.4	9.0
532	235	IMI	344½	- 4	3.8	12.1
665	263½	Johnson Match	327½	+ 2	6.4	6.0
78½	7	Jones Shipman	8½		7.4	8.7
250	142	Kelsey Ind	256		14.2	4.1
410	290	Lincolnt	280	- 5	5.5	6.0
32½	19	Locke	19½		6.5	5.6
31½	16½	MS Intl	18½		5.1	6.7
508½	208½	Meng Brocrft	233½		5.8	12.1
569½	237½	Mckechnie†	215	- 1	8.3	7.0
179½	85½	McLeod Russel	105		8.4	7.5
242½	121	Magnatt	129	+ 2	4.7	13.4
115	82½	Melstrix	95		5.8	12.5
14½	3	MetalTech	3			43.4
357½	167½	Molins	123½	+ 1	1.5	
501½	251½	Morgan Cblt†	298	- 5½	6.7	9.3
86½	39½	Pelnerton	65		5.5	11.3
608½	45	Powerscreen	121	- 1	3.2	
330½	155½	Quadramec	162½	- 2	8.0	8.5
57½	39½	Quincunt Grp	47½			
60	50	Reactec Metal	50			
290½	132½	Renold	150½	- 2	6.1	6.8
292½	157½	Rexnord	259		5.3	10.8
377½	142½	Servomex	157½		7.5	9.4
59½	31½	Sensyme	36½		5.8	6.2
5012½	3343½	TPK	4745½	+ 121½	0.8	14.4
72½	45½	TCI	57	- ½	6.2	6.5
184½	68½	TLG	174		2.6	31.4
48½	5½	Tadpole Tech	9½			
67½	27½	Telnetwork	46½	- ½	4.3	
365	33½	Telspec	34½		0.4	5.0
159½	109½	Thorpe FW	137		4.8	6.4
159½	42½	Total Systems	49½	- ½	4.2	7.3
18	5	Ultima Networks	9½			
48½	13½	Vigilant Technology†	23½		4.8	9.4
660	430	Vislor	490		8.5	11.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156	87	Alvis	132		3.5	12.2
227	117	Carlisle Strgmnt	150		5.5	15.4
227

Advisers to the world

Rodney Hobson introduces a two-page report on awards to our consultants overseas

Crown Agents set up a customs authority to beat the smuggling problem in Mozambique

When the British Consultants Bureau (BCB) totted up the number of projects won by its members in October, the total for the UK and the rest of the world came to a surprising 124. Surprising in that despite the economic downturn, the crisis in Asia and the uncertainty of a new Government at home, that was a record for any single month.

The bureau has been looking for consolidation. Many of its members have merged or slimmed down to secure specialist markets. The body itself is talking to other representative associations that include consultants so that, in the words of Colin Adams, the BCB director: "We can have one British bulldog instead of several yapping puppies."

Latest figures show that fee earnings rose in 1997 from £2.4 billion to £2.6 billion. There was a British consultancy presence in every country in the world except Nauru and New Caledonia.

However, Mr Adams admits: "It is this year that the strong pound and the effects of the Asian crisis are being felt. One or two of the smaller consultancies have been gasping for air."

Mr Adams and his team have taken a positive attitude to the difficulties. He has been to Mozambique and Angola, a trade mission went to Egypt and Nigel Peters, the deputy director, led a team to Brazil, accompanied by Nick Raynsford, a Minister in the Environment Department. India, China, Malaysia and Hong Kong featured in the top ten list of countries in terms of contracts won last year.

There is still work, perhaps of a different nature, out East. Mr Adams says: "The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other funds are looking for expertise in privatisation. Private companies want advice on streamlining. They are trimming fat, a process that the Far East should have gone through some time ago but didn't have to."

Mr Adams and Mr Peters believe that Latin America and Africa offer enormous opportunities for consultants. Africa has, in Mr Adams's phrase, been "viewed with diffidence" by many companies because of political and military upheavals over the years. However, even Mozambique and Angola offer scope as they rebuild their war-torn nations.

Mr Adams adds: "We are seeking partnerships with South African companies. We bring in experience that dovetails with what their consultants know of local conditions.

"The other area is Latin America. The potential there is enormous. There is an almost institutionalised reluctance for British companies to work there that defies logic. At the turn of century there was a strong British presence in South America: for example, in railways and other projects. Those consultants who are in Latin America are doing lots of good work in utilities, airports and mining. We have set up a Spanish language course. I am sure that we will see a trend there."

Back home, the BCB has been assessing its working relationship with the Labour Government, and reactions have been mixed. On the positive side, ministers such as Mr Raynsford and government departments have been giving a lot of support.

"But it has been slightly disappointing in that we think that exporting has not been given the amount of support it could have had at the political level," says Mr Adams.

He cites the abolition of the aid and trade provision and changes to tax on earnings abroad. Under new rules, consultants must work abroad for a full tax year to avoid paying tax here. He says: "To the smaller consultancies and those that do short-term projects of a year to 14 months, the foreign-earnings deduction gave us competitiveness.

"Under the old system, if you were abroad for 365 days, employees could claim tax back for their 365 days out of the country. That is no longer the case. You have to be out of the country from April 6 to the following April 5. That does not work well for projects because you cannot get them all starting on April 6.

"If a project that started in May this year runs until March 2000, tax will be deducted for two years because the consultants will not be away for a full tax year. The change was designed to stop people such as pop singers, who were rolling over their income so that they were paid when they were out of the country, but it has hit consultants hard."

Mr Adams says that the Government has pledged to make the tax system equal. But, he adds: "Getting people to go abroad, especially if they have to leave their families behind, means that companies have to top up their salaries gross. That makes British consultants less competitive in bidding for projects."

Treasury ministers are not sympathetic, although, Mr Adams says. Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, has suggested the bureau come up with an alternative way to give incentives for exporters. But, Mr Adams says: "That is hard because of European rules on subsidies. Other countries, meanwhile, are giving subsidies through the tax system."

White-water networking: a BCB group braves rapids below the Iguaçú Falls in Brazil

Mission possible

Nothing succeeds like a well-run visit to a target market, says **Colin Adams**

The difference between effective and unsuccessful exporting consulting companies is often the ability to win work by networking, both in the UK and overseas. Too often, executives assume that ability alone will bring clients and international funding institutions to their door, while they sit in the office in Guildford or Glasgow.

The British Consultants Bureau (BCB) aims to help its members to win consulting projects throughout the world — and for this, networking is vital. Unlike the single-focus trade associations, whose members are commercial rivals, BCB has 90 sectors and disciplines across the consultancy spectrum. It is remarkable how many projects are won by word-of-mouth contacts between members of disparate backgrounds. Above all, networking can produce multidisciplinary teams able to take on complex projects.

Most sectors are seeing a shift towards the internationalisation of consultancy. This can be a great advantage, but is not always in the best interests of British companies and their overseas earnings. Indeed, the Chancellor's alacrity at the last Budget in virtually doing away with UK foreign earnings deduction on personal income has made the employment of some British expatriates uncompetitive.

Most BCB meetings in this country and overseas involve a good deal of networking. Each year, 250 senior visitors from all over the world visit the association's London headquarters or other venues throughout the country. Last year visitors included ministers from various Central European, African and Latin American states and the director-general of a UN agency.

For exporting consultants, however, there is no substitute for visiting target markets overseas — which is why so many take part in the eight to ten missions each year that BCB organises. Earlier this year there were visits to Austria, Georgia and Azerbaijan, the World Bank in Washington, the UN in New York, and the EU in Brussels. This autumn groups have visited Egypt and Brazil with Nick Raynsford, the Minister for Construction. The Duke of Gloucester, the BCB's president, has just returned from leading a similar mission to Angola and Mozambique.

The access afforded by a member of the Royal Family or a minister on such visits cannot be exaggerated. If the average British consultant visits a country on his own, he will be fortunate if he gets an interview with even a senior official in a government ministry. By joining a BCB mission, he gains access to a wide range of ministers — even, on occasion, to prime ministers.

The BCB returned from southern Africa, as it did from Brazil and Egypt, with potential projects for many sectors. Some of these will surely be translated into contracts for British companies — and next year's overseas programme is even more ambitious.

● *The author is the executive director of the British Consultants Bureau (0171-222 3651 or www.bcbforum.demon.co.uk).*

The worst late payer

EU delays in settling bills are straining finances

Brussels-bashers will not be surprised. The body that brought Europe the Late Payment Directive imposing penalties on those who pay bills late is itself one of the worst culprits.

The European Commission is never the easiest of bodies for those who hate bureaucratic wrangling, but consultants have found that the department handling the Tacis project takes the biscuit.

Worse still, many of the victims whose invoices have to go through 20 steps before they can be paid, and who often find that invoices bounce back on the flimsiest excuse, are scared to speak out because of veiled hints that the complainers will be excluded from shortlists for further work.

This is a real fear because though consultants technically compete on merit and price, Brussels runs an unofficial quota system to see that work is shared among European Union member states.

Tacis stands for technical assistance to the CIS, the group of East European states that clung together after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Tacis still runs the EU's aid programme for the rest of the old Soviet bloc, plus Mongolia.

Colin Adams, the executive director of the British Consultants Bureau, says: "A total of £6.3 million is owed to 19 of our members. Some have taken out loans to cope. One firm borrowed £250,000 to pay the staff wages."

Nigel Peters, the deputy director, adds: "Tacis work is often based in remote areas. You have to have the receipt if you hire a taxi in Kazakhstan. Just imagine asking for one. The European Commission issuing a Late Payment Directive is absolutely scandalous. It is the worst offender."

The EU has a 60-day target for paying invoices and adds interest at 6 per cent to bills unpaid beyond 60 days. Delays have typically run to 17 weeks, but one British consultant had to wait 30 weeks.

Mr Adams comments: "Six per cent interest will not cover the cost of a bank loan in the UK. In any case, it means that money is being wasted. It is not going on what it was intended for, but on interest."

The argument has not been lost on the British Government, which put up £57 million of the £434 million provided by the Tacis fund last year.

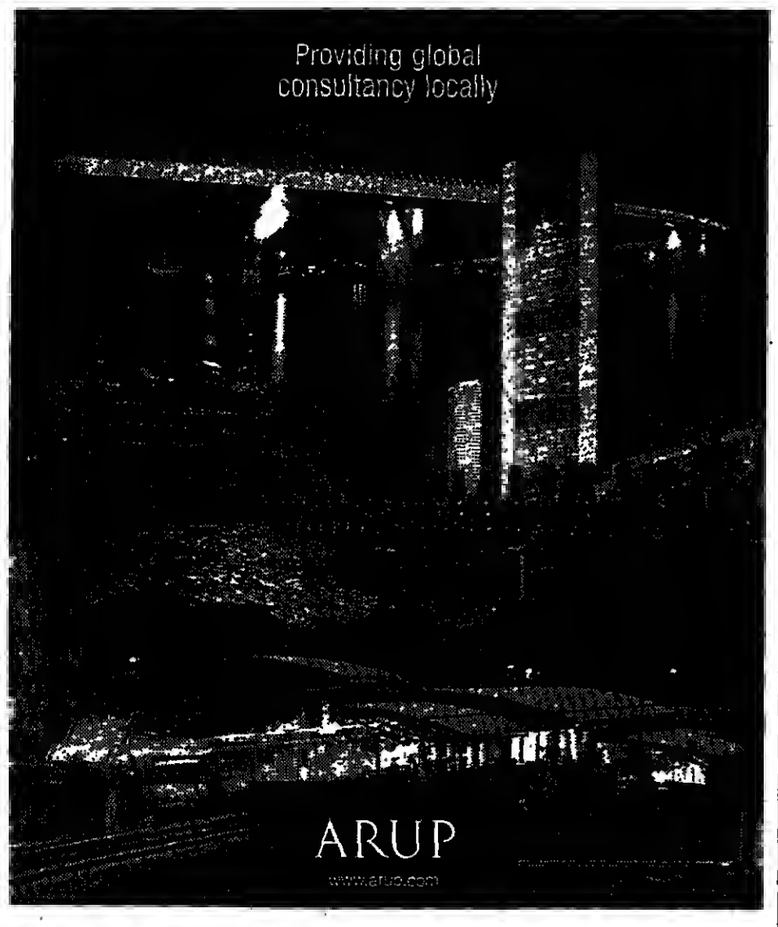
Tacis is being replaced by Service Commun Reflex, a contract letting and bill-paying department that came into being in September when there was already a four-month backlog of unpaid bills.

Mr Adams says: "This is a sensible move but our concern is to make sure that it gets efficient before it is able to get inefficient. Only now is it getting into gear."

These delays are worrying for consultants for two reasons. First, many have moved into Eastern Europe to compensate for the downturn in the Asian economies.

Secondly, official aid programmes such as Tacis and World Bank schemes offer protection against the economic difficulties in Russia. At least Tacis will pay up some day.

RODNEY HOBSON



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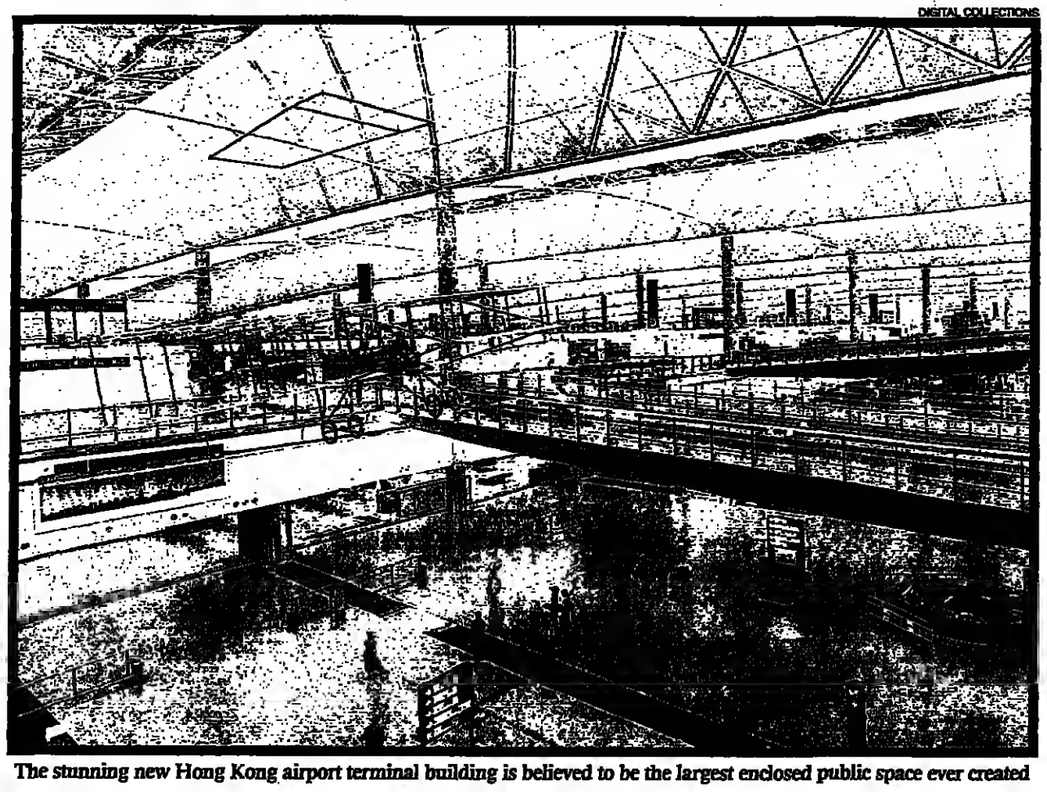
Michael Knipe profiles the winners of this year's awards, for projects ranging from leading-edge construction to mine clearance

Ten Wembleys well-crafted in concrete



The stunning new Hong Kong airport terminal building is believed to be the largest enclosed public space ever created

CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

Category A (tangible visible projects): Mott MacDonald for Hong Kong airport

The Hong Kong International Airport passenger terminal, the world's largest single airport building — equal to ten Wembley Stadiums — has won the British Consultancy Firm of the Year Award for Mott MacDonald, the multidisciplinary engineering consultancy.

Mott MacDonald was responsible for the engineering design of the terminal and the management of the 230-strong team of architects, designers, systems specialists, building services engineers and quantity surveyors that completed it.

The new terminal contains all the airport's functions within a single building. It is believed to be the largest enclosed public space ever created, says Hugh Norie, a Mott MacDonald director and chairman of the consortium. The Y-shaped concourse provides access to 48 aircraft gates while a 330-metre-wide base of the Y houses the processing terminal. This features a baggage hall the size of New York's Yankee Stadium and the largest single retail space of any airport.

Among the building's striking features are its streamlined roof, superb concrete finishes and dramatic floor-to-ceiling glazing. Less visible but equally significant aspects are the first airport information network enabling all occupants to share common information, and an interchangeable foundation system to cope with ground that ranges from bedrock to reclaimed land.

Most of its nearly three-mile perimeter is glass to maximise solar lighting and assist orientation by revealing the landscape and aircraft beyond.

The project was remarkable for its sheer size, pioneering design, strictly controlled budget, intensely demanding specification, ground conditions and vast numbers of people and disciplines involved. The site was accessible only by boat, and more than 2,300 different structural drawings were required.

The consortium included the architects Foster and Ove Arup, the airport authority BAA and the quantity surveying firm WT.

Forming the structure almost entirely in exposed concrete presented immense design and durability challenges and ingenious prestressed concrete design, which is most evident in the slender, high-level entry bridges across the massive atrium.

Category B (organisational or non-visual): Joint winner: Crown Agents for Mozambique Customs

IN A high-security-risk operation, the British consultancy Crown Agents has created a sustainable, efficient customs authority in Mozambique during the past two years, enabling the Maputo Government to increase its revenue, facilitate legitimate trade and attract investment. It is believed to be the first time a private-sector company has been given executive authority for a sovereign state's customs authority.

After 30 years of civil war, crime and corruption were flourishing across Mozambique's border when Crown Agents won a three-year contract to handle and develop customs and excise procedure. A 100-strong team, with at least some knowledge of Portuguese, was assembled and, after a three-month study, a strategy document was drafted to tackle human resource management, modernise procedures and train personnel. Codes of conduct and procedure manuals were introduced for the first time.

An impressive innovation was the creation of flexible anti-smuggling teams. Comprising two customs officers and three armed fiscal policemen, using four-wheel-drive vehicles, the teams react swiftly to intelligence reports that can take them anywhere in the country. They have greatly reduced the level of smuggling and fraudulent declaration of goods.

Revenue collection during the first phase of action rose by 44 per cent and customs clearance times were dramatically reduced, with 80 per cent of goods being cleared within 24 hours.

More than 230 new recruits to the customs service have been trained and deployed and a cadre of the existing staff has been selected for management development training.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Special award: Tom Larmonr

TOM LARMOUR was Ove Arup's senior official responsible for the design of four stations on the railway linking Hong Kong, Lantau and the new airport. Each one involved considerable technical challenges. The stations had large, deep basements and complex superstructures. Mr Larmour's career was ended prematurely by an act of bravery in August last year, when he was drowned while attempting to rescue two young men during the storm caused by Typhoon Victor.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Consultancy of the Year, Category A: Peter Brett Associates

PETER Brett Associates teamed up with Thorpe Architecture and an Austrian lawyer to promote the development of a 300-hectare site at Genshagen, 12 miles south of Berlin, which it has turned into the largest business park in Europe. Peter Brett was responsible for the technical studies and solutions necessary to obtain planning consent, negotiations with all the relevant authorities, and the detailed design and construction supervision of the engineering works.

Category B (organisational or non-visual): Joint winner: Cameron McKenna for California deregulation

THE Cameron McKenna law firm's Energy Team achieved a coup in winning the task of implementing deregulation of the electricity utility in California, where lawyers are thick on the ground. It was, said the President of the Law Society, "a bit like exporting English chefs to France".

The firm was hired in January last year to finalise design work and to create all the documentation required to introduce competition into the California electric power industry by March 31 this year. The work involved anti-trust competition law and utility regulation.

The firm's task was a challenging one. It was given ten weeks to prepare 1,835 pages of prose to describe all the rights, obligations, processes and procedures for the introduction of five complex markets.

A team of partners, led by Fiona Woolf and drawn from London, Washington and Hong Kong, set up a project office in San Francisco and within a week managed to mobilise itself and its own technical and operational consultants.

Category A: Tony Abbotts of IMC Group Consulting

TONY ABBOTTS has played a pivotal role in the development of the Maghara drift mine in the northern Sinai Desert, the only underground coalmine in the Middle East.

Involved from 1988 in updating early feasibility studies, Mr Abbotts moved to Maghara as IMC's site manager in 1990, with responsibility for inspection of the equipment, co-ordination of the installation and to develop training facilities.

Maghara is 180 miles from Cairo and 60 miles from the nearest port, so he had to make possible the mine's development as a self-contained community with its own power plant and water supply.

Until last year, the nearest telephone was 60 miles away and communications depended entirely on radio transmissions.

The safety of the mine depended on the training of more than 700 local workers, most of whom were illiterate and many of whom were unable to speak English.

Under Egyptian employment laws, the mine has to operate a complicated shift pattern, an arrangement made more difficult by the need to transport workers daily by bus from Ishmaeliya, 100 miles away.

The mine is now fully operational, with output due to double over the next three years.

Eddie Hindmarsh, the managing director of IMC, says that Tony Abbott's contribution to the project's success cannot be overstated.

Mine work: Tony Abbotts

Category B: Chris Mathias of ULG Consultants

CHRIS MATHIAS led a ULG Consultants team which set up an agricultural market information system in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic, which has enabled farmers to increase their exports.

The project involved the weekly collection and dissemination of price information, the creation of a database of farm suppliers, machinery dealers and sources of fuel, and the setting up of another database of world market prices, including those in neighbouring republics.

Mr Mathias had to spend much time negotiating with senior Kyrgyzstan officials to obtain free access to their weekly price information, as the free exchange of information between organisations was a new concept. It was equally difficult to convince the national and regional media to publish the price information free of charge, as the scheme was seen as a possible source of funds and the notion that the media should provide a public service was not well understood.

One of the underlying principles behind the project was to achieve co-operation and change through logical argument and persuasion, as it was believed that this was the best means of ensuring the long-term success of the project.

Other problems were the uncertainty of communications and power supply, but the project was fully under way by May last year and the World Bank took it over this year with a view to extending it nationwide.

Persuader: Chris Mathias

Category A (tangible, visible project): Huckle Tweddell Partnership for Oman State Building

IN MAY last year, the Huckle Tweddell Partnership was commissioned by the Sultanate of Oman to design a building to house a State Council (similar to the House of Lords) and a newly created *Majlis A'Shura*, a council of elected members representing the *Wilayats* (counties).

The first meeting of the two councils was due to take place in December, so the building had to be speedily designed and built. Work began on site — at the hottest time of the year — only two weeks after design work had started.

There was some uncertainty over how the chamber would be used, so it was decided to provide a large, flat-floored space to offer flexibility of seating and use. The final layout provides a dais at one end for the Sultan, seats to each side of this for the Royal Family, banks of seating for the *Majlis A'Shura* and State Council members, and a horseshoe of seating for 200 guests.

Long delivery times for items from abroad meant that these had to be specified and designed without the normal sequence. Thus the marble flooring was specified in Muscat, inspected and quarried in Italy and sent in block form to the United Arab Emirates, where it was cut into slabs for transportation to Oman.

Category B: BACTEC International for Bosnian mine clearance

BACTEC, an explosive ordnance disposal and mine clearance company, was appointed last year to recruit and train three teams from each of the ethnic communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina to combat the menace of unexploded mines.

The political and security situation was fragile, and the first task was to recruit and train Bosnian and Croat teams, whose members were selected from shortlists provided by their communities. Although it would have been logical and more cost-effective to centralise activities, this proved impossible and BACTEC had to provide separate facilities for training each ethnic group.

Once trained, the teams could undertake operational tasks. As well as dealing with isolated items of ordnance, they searched and cleared villages and buildings to allow the repatriation of refugees.

The nine teams set up by BACTEC undertook more than 1,100 tasks, including the rendering safe or disposal of bombs, including some left over from the Second World War: landmines; mortars; grenades and ammunition.

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-do- NAV to Jan 19	135.00	135.00		
UK Equity Safeguard	111.86	119.63†	+ 2.40	2.02
-do- NAV to Jan 19	107.25	107.25	..	..
US Equity Safeguard	92.61	98.40†	+ 0.40	
Cash	952.60	957.45†	..	0.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	386.07	421.40	- 1.54	1.60
UK Small Cos	77.55	82.94	- 0.35	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	95.92	102.58	- 1.89	1.99
Geared UK Index	#21.229	#22.411	- 0.29	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.20	88.18	+ 0.34	6.68
Monthly Inc	42.61	45.71†	- 0.32	7.88
International Funds				
Australasian Gen	342.65	361.49	+ 2.45	0.17
American Spec	159.03	169.01	+ 3.68	..
JG US Index	#38.994	#37.810	+ 0.39	4.50
European Gen	399.98	423.70†	+ 1.00	
European Spec	177.74	190.02†	+ 3.34	
Japan Gen	100.37	109.05	- 1.11	
Asia Pacific	82.34	86.53†	- 2.35	1.60
Pacific Spec	83.21	88.99	+ 2.12	
Greater China	157.31	168.24	+ 2.60	
Latin America	66.44	71.00	+ 2.84	..
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American Growth	308.40	330.10	+ 3.78	0.22
Asian Pacific	105.70	113.00	+ 3.58	0.14
Assets & Earnings	351.70	376.10†	+ 1.40	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	283.20	302.80	+ 1.80	0.24
Extra Inc	40.98	43.60†	- 0.05	7.30
General	338.40	340.80	- 2.40	2.63
Global Opps	76.60	81.49	+ 0.25	0.39
Japan	77.27	82.68	+ 0.78	
Managed Inc	95.20	95.72†	- 0.06	4.34
Magnum Inc	192.60	205.90	- 0.10	1.17
US Emerging Cos	212.70	227.50	+ 5.50	
Ethical	86.40	91.85	- 0.59	1.87
International	152.90	163.50	+ 0.50	
Dividend D. Growth	86.39	91.80	- 0.44	3.36
Global Growth & Inc	82.41	50.83		1.58
Latin America	51.36	54.93	+ 0.64	1.22
Capital Reserve	164.80	164.90	+ 0.30	4.24

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ABERDEEN PROGRESSIVE UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 089 008 Dlg: 0800 832 308				
Asian Opp Acc	354.39	372.79	+ 2.99	..
Asia Pacific	54.35	57.51	+ 0.53	0.10
Eng Mkg Inc	41.13	43.52	+ 0.56	0.44
Ethical Inc	84.43	89.36	+ 0.55	1.25
Euro Growth Acc	130.15	138.71	- 1.38	0.05
Euro Spec Opps Acc	135.31	142.26	+ 2.17	
Extra Inc Inc	210.90	223.10	+ 1.26	4.48
Extra Inc Acc	297.36	314.69	+ 1.70	4.40
FE Emg Econ	70.92	74.72	+ 1.47	0.40
Fixed Int Inc #	28.22	29.01		
Frontier Inc Inc	56.10	59.26	+ 0.08	0.74
Fund Of Inv Inc	200.73	212.40†	+ 0.26	0.07
Fund Of Inv Acc	445.16	472.13	+ 0.58	0.07
Gilt Inc Inc #	53.84	55.01	+ 0.12	0.17
Global Bond Inc	42.70	44.61†	+ 0.00	4.75
Global Inc Inc	34.26	36.06	+ 0.23	3.50
Global Inc Acc	63.58	50.40	+ 0.33	3.50
High Inc Inc	152.58	161.43†	+ 0.92	4.36
High Inc Acc	200.26	221.45	+ 1.26	4.36
Japan Inc	147.92	155.09	+ 1.21	
Latin Amer Inc	45.11	47.73	+ 0.82	0.01
Macro Inc Inc	60.50	64.44†	- 0.12	2.72
Master Cash Inc	57.07	60.39†	- 0.29	0.54
North Amer Inc	258.56	270.79	+ 2.28	..
North Amer Acc	258.89	271.12	+ 2.39	..
Prop Share Inc	77.06	81.54	- 0.12	2.29
Special Sit Inc	158.56	167.00	+ 0.50	1.61
Special Sit Acc	188.97	191.20	+ 0.57	1.61
Tech Inc	907.52	952.67	+18.70	..
Tech Acc	907.52	952.67	+18.70	..
UK Blue Chip Inc	119.04	125.63	+ 1.16	2.61
UK Blue Chip Acc	145.62	153.68	+ 1.41	2.01
UK Eng Co Inc	76.07	82.23	- 0.68	1.50
UK Emg Inc	74.73	79.05†	- 0.58	1.24
World Port Inc #	92.35	97.26	- 0.96	1.64

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 0728				
UK Smalls Cos	2220.00	2345.00	-31.00	.
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 298 8808				
Resdl Property #	199.90	110.90	+ 0.40	5.90
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 385 950				
Amely Income	187.38	113.93	+ 0.14	2.23
Income Builder Inc	102.89	100.40	+ 0.75	3.02
H & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01283 565 011				
Cheviot Dur Prest	149.10	154.90	+ 0.30	.
Founder Prest Perf	83.91	87.17	+ 1.33	.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4042				
American Sm Cos	455.60	463.10	+ 0.00	
Bond	132.00	139.50†	+ 0.50	5.94
Bnt Smlr Cos	93.36	105.70	- 0.77	1.52
Europe	472.40	447.50†	+ 5.35	
Emg Smlr Cos	126.00	134.80†	+ 0.40	0.25
High Income #	72.47	77.10†	+ 0.24	5
Income	432.70	460.30†	+ 1.60	3.71
Japan	279.30	295.30†	+ 3.05	..
Latin American	78.60	84.68	+ 2.11	..
Pacific	65.23	69.38	+ 1.32	.
Uk Smlr Cos	59.49	63.29	- 0.03	0.98
Japanese Sm Cos	490.00	493.10	+10.55	..
Mdgs Fd	260.80	278.40†	+ 2.20	2.75
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8873				
Bnt & Gtnrs	454.40	468.70	+12.80	0.75
Capital Gwth	160.60	170.40	+ 1.80	2.17
Worldw Opps	222.10	236.60	+ 6.30	0.77
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0151 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.00	105.00†	..	0.65
Cash Acc	138.10	146.30	..	0.65
Income #	117.36	705.20	- 4.10	4.11
Income Builder #	81.20	86.56	- 0.57	4.38
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	113.50	120.80†	- 0.60	1.41
500	510.20	548.00	- 2.80	1.94
Ethical	423.40	452.90	- 2.70	1.45
Property	278.00	296.30	- 5.01	
Tracker	295.70	310.10	- 1.90	1.40
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	191.00	204.20	- 1.20	1.43
FTSE 100	140.40	149.10†	- 0.90	1.58
Smaller Cos	52.90	56.43	- 0.08	2.83
Smaller Cos Acc	64.00	69.12	- 0.00	2.83
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	275.00	290.30†	+ 1.00	0.09
American Growth	164.80	195.60	+ 1.10	0.13
Japan	92.34	97.96	+ 1.34	..
Japan Acc	93.40	99.90	+ 1.27	..
Worldwide	227.60	241.30	+ 0.37	0.68
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	52.97	54.94	- 0.28	6
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	50.44	52.46	- 0.07	4.99
Managed Growth	49.71	51.76	+ 0.03	0.00
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Dealing: 0800 783 4567				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	127.00	177.60	- 0.50	5.36
Equity Income #	169.00	180.30†	+ 0.90	4.11
Gil D Fir Int	66.45	68.57†	+ 0.38	6.34
Int Fxd Int	107.30	111.00	+ 0.40	4.21
Int Fxd Int Acc	141.70	146.50	+ 0.40	4.21
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	548.00	587.10	- 3.10	1.40
UK Growth Acc	566.50	604.20	- 3.10	1.45
Growth & Inc	554.70	592.40†	- 2.90	1.44
Growth D. Inc Acc	1214	1296	- 6.00	1.44
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	373.70	389.20	- 0.10	0.44
Euro Growth Acc	301.50	310.50	+ 0.20	0.44
Far Eastern Gwth	96.80	104.30	+ 2.00	
Far East Gth Acc	105.50	113.60	+ 3.30	1.02
Continental Europe Gwth Acc				
N Am Mkt Gwth	94.26	94.92	+ 0.80	1.35
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1804				
American Growth	224.40	236.80	- 2.30	
Amer Smlr Cos	143.20	152.00	- 1.00	
Europe	138.70	149.60	- 2.05	0.80
Emrg Income #	125.70	131.10†	- 1.20	3.60
European Growth	011.00	641.50	- 5.80	0.40
Europe Select	448.10	478.40	- 0.40	0.30
German Growth	107.70	117.50	- 0.40	0.50
Global Bond	78.54	82.56	+ 0.23	4.80
Global Growth	307.69	319.95†	- 1.00	0.10
Japan Growth	114.50	120.00	- 1.20	
Japan Smlr Cos	86.11	90.93	- 2.11	
Latin Amer	32.25	34.80	+ 1.70	
Portfolio	183.40	195.10	- 1.50	1.50
-do- Accum	359.00	381.00	- 3.50	1.00
UK Growth	140.80	153.88	- 1.66	1.20
UK Smaller Cos	110.50	120.90	- 1.80	0.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 238 5800				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	104.80	111.20		
Special Opps Inc	43.52	46.30		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 221 8021				
Balanced Growth	191.23	199.20†	- 0.81	0.75
-do- Accum	227.00	237.46	- 0.97	0.75
Smaller Cos	165.79	172.70†	- 5.91	0.00
-do- Accum	169.23	107.12	- 9.75	0.00
Higher Yield #	54.58	57.68†	- 0.26	3.72
-do- Accum #	125.58	130.81	- 0.44	3.72
American Gth Inc	161.44	168.17	+ 1.25	
European Growth	230.61	243.35	+ 0.19	
-do- Accum	238.01	148.56	+ 0.19	
Major Mkts Inc	62.48	69.09	- 0.16	1.42
-do- Accum	68.13	68.89	+ 0.17	1.42
Int Stoc Opps	207.22	215.65	+ 0.55	
Pacific Gwth	05.00	103.13	- 2.64	1.40
UK General #	129.30	133.71	- 1.00	2.58
-do- Accum #	144.68	150.71	+ 1.23	2.58
Japan	38.60	79.58	+ 0.11	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	116.52	120.75†	- 0.53	6.71
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	67.92	68.79	- 0.20	5.61
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5000				
Emerald	232.20	244.40	- 0.80	1.60
UK Growth	291.90	296.80	- 1.50	1.55
UK Income	200.20	210.70†	- 1.50	3.44

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01737 222 188				
Can Gen Dist	265.60	282.70	+ 1.90	1.10
-do- Income Dist	163.00	173.70†	+ 0.40	2.84
-do- Accum	564.40	598.20†	+ 1.20	2.84
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.89	50.33†	+ 0.16	3.78
Growth Units	344.30	367.40	+ 0.80	1.27
Bond	302.90	319.80	+ 1.10	4.70
Int Growth	248.20	263.90†	+ 3.30	0.12
North American	372.10	398.10	+ 5.00	
Far East	181.00	194.20	+ 4.20	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	238.70	256.30	- 1.80	1.30
European	128.50	136.70	+ 1.30	0.15
Japanese Growth	27.82	29.47	- 0.06	
High Income	285.80	305.20	+ 0.80	2.86
CAPEL-CURE MYRDEN UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 837 7492 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	325.80	344.70†	+ 2.50	..
European Inc	141.00	150.30	+ 1.50	0.02
Smaller Cos (4-1)	98.10	104.37	- 0.12	2.74
Growth	683.40	737.70	+ 2.00	1.76
Income D. Growth #	566.60	604.90	+ 2.80	4.47
-do- Accum #	924.80	983.00	+ 4.30	4.47
Japan & Gen	48.15	50.86	+ 0.36	
Hallmark Gwth	1573.00	1628.00†	+11.00	1.30
-do- Accum	2000.00	2084.00	+15.00	1.35
Special Sits	165.90	170.20	+ 0.80	1.66
High Yield	1843.00	1901.00†	+ 9.80	3.86
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 1786				
Cazenove Portfolio	119.80	127.20	+ 0.73	2.11
Americana Portfolio	192.32	203.64	+ 2.19	0.34
European Portfolio	207.29	214.06	+ 2.65	0.25
High Income	58.29	61.50†	+ 0.17	5.94
Japanese Portfolio	44.15	46.70†	+ 0.26	
Pacific Portfolio	104.36	112.25	+ 2.30	1.78
UK Equity	117.35	125.84	+ 0.80	1.53
UK Equity & Bd	70.55	74.70	+ 0.32	5.23
UK Smlr Cos	47.94	51.26	- 0.12	2.34
CHF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171-588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	995.32	1016.36	+ 6.53	3.43
Inv Fd Acc	1054.34	1070.28	+ 0.82	..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	175.50	178.20	+ 1.70	7.26
Fxd Int Sec Acc	189.50	198.30	+ 1.05	.
CMF UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 283 6000				
Equity Dist	1277.05	1294.00	.	3.38
COF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	956.00	980.30	+ 0.09	3.56
Investment Acc	4811.00	4884.31	+ 1.91	.
Fixed Int Inc	142.63	143.21	+ 2.00	7.26
Fixed Int Acc	306.23	307.45	+ 4.26	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 236 5000				
CF Ind Acc	119.88	116.371	..	7.41
City Fin Fd	38.67	41.84	- 1.07	
Acorn Ethical ⊕	198.52	208.40		0.65
City Fin Assets	65.30	69.87†		2.32
City Fin Intl	86.75	92.28†		
Friars Hse Cap	376.23	400.24		2.29
Buckley Wld Grth	138.74	148.12		
Uotham Fd	160.45	162.40†	+ 0.60	2.02
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 771 6771 Advice: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	37.49	39.76	+ 0.42	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 223				
American Gwth	115.20	122.05	+ 1.41	
Dragon Growth	43.20	46.20	+ 0.74	1.37
Equity High Inc #	120.98	128.05	+ 0.01	4.05
-do- Accum #	187.39	198.28	+ 0.95	4.05
Extra Income Inc	38.38	32.06	+ 0.07	5.11
Extra Income Acc	37.07	39.11	+ 0.09	5.11
European Gwth	99.43	105.18	+ 1.17	0.50
General Equity	34.15	36.52	+ 0.25	0.02
General Equity	128.41	147.13	+ 0.49	2.11
Japan Growth	31.21	33.20	+ 0.11	..
Pacific Gwth	46.00	51.64	+ 0.02	1.06
Pnl Sm Cos Inc	37.60	39.78†	+ 0.11	2.17
-do- Accum	40.92	43.30	+ 0.11	2.17
Retirement Inc #	33.56	35.70	+ 0.13	4.05
Special Sits	58.05	65.49	+ 0.20	2.08
UK Dividends	75.18	79.56	+ 0.75	0.53
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01934 886 066				
Balanced	84.72	88.25	+ 0.48	2.61
Capital	103.06	107.35	+ 0.49	1.41
High Income	59.54	62.02†	+ 0.31	6.06
Top 50	80.51	83.80	+ 0.53	1.37
COMMERCIAL UNION TRST MGMT LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	229.49	239.00†	+ 1.31	4.55
Long Gilt	59.67	62.11†	+ 0.25	4.31
Monthly Int Plus	63.50	66.15	+ 0.20	6.77
-do- Accum	65.91	44.29	+ 0.25	6.71
Preference Share	63.06	66.53†	+ 0.08	5.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	177.16	184.98†	+ 0.97	5.40
Managed Fund	92.06	95.53†	+ 0.75	2.58
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.75	45.10	- 0.17	1.40
-do- Accum	52.28	54.40	+ 0.20	1.40
UK & General	128.07	134.00†	+ 1.07	2.58
-do- Accum	176.23	182.55†	+ 1.48	2.08
UK Growth	258.21	270.04	+ 2.17	1.30
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	352.75	367.49	+ 4.87	
Far Eastern Gwth	89.81	93.56	+ 1.76	0.38
Global Bond	76.17	79.35†	+ 0.39	4.83
Japan Growth	81.53	84.94	+ 0.77	
North Amer Gwth	357.08	372.00	+ 3.08	
Oriental Growth	53.10	55.41	+ 1.08	1.18
Worldwide Growth	90.98	94.70	+ 0.94	.
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.11	92.11†	+ 0.02	6.37
Homeowner Fund	105.78	112.54	+ 0.62	2.04
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 588 0808				
Consistent UT	44.79	47.79	+ 0.05	2.78
COOKE (SIDNEY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 368				
Growth	204.70	217.60†	+ 1.66	2.28
UK Eqty Inc	89.55	95.27	+ 0.71	3.43
European Growth	114.00	120.70	+ 1.50	0.21
UK Spec Sits	215.99	223.70	+ 0.20	1.38
For Co-op Pensions see CIS Unit Trust				
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01737 856 189				
European Inc	100.00	106.00	+ 1.20	
Fellowship Fd	114.30	125.70	+ 0.40	1.07
Income #	352.60	375.10†	+ 2.00	3.71
-do- Accum #	1007.00	1071.00	+ 8.00	3.71
Smaller Cos	208.30	221.50	- 1.00	0.53
-do- Accum	261.28	277.80	- 1.20	0.53
Gilt Portfolio	121.80	128.70	+ 0.30	0.99
Mthly Inc Port #	104.50	111.20	+ 0.40	3.51
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1824				
Global Sm Cos	111.69	111.74	- 0.03	0.37
UK Small Cos	795.25	812.04	- 0.70	10.86
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 0819				
Disc Inc	267.20	275.501		2.82
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers:0171 475 7364 Admin/Sales:0870 081 8117				
Amer Smlr Cos	218.01	231.59	+ 5.55	
Bond Income	116.40	120.77†	+ 0.71	0.14
European	285.52	308.74	+ 2.44	
Dividend Plus	133.80	142.19	+ 0.03	0.02
European Special	202.51	215.40	- 0.41	
Gilt Yield	141.21	148.10†	+ 0.39	6.67
Global Equity Inc	147.85	156.70	+ 1.35	1.15
High Yield #	204.05	217.07†	+ 1.76	4.33
Japan	262.37	279.11	- 0.37	..
Japanese Special	133.40	131.32	+ 1.32	..
Money Market	107.36	107.361	+ 0.01	5.70
North American	173.80	184.74	+ 2.52	
Smaller Cos	129.86	138.17	+ 1.04	1.56
Tomorrows Co Ex	1231.00	1244.00	+ 7.00	0.13
UK Index Inc	441.98	444.12	+ 5.81	3.05
Europe Ex	42.88	44.30		0.66
Europe	012.72	951.391	+ 5.76	1.70
Global Em Mkts	44.37	40.46		0.80
Latin Dragons	58.00	60.79†	+ 0.83	
Oriental Income #	32.81	34.37†	+ 0.47	3.42
Preference	156.54	163.56†	+ 0.85	7.34
Tiger	156.29	165.74†	+ 3.69	
UK Growth	894.20	925.94†	+ 4.40	0.80
UK Mid-Cap	431.69	451.93	+ 5.35	1.34
UK Smlr Cos	112.37	117.88†	+ 1.05	0.01
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 520				
European	88.25	93.80	+ 1.23	.
Financial	14.12	70.75	+ 1.04	1.27
UK Growth #	391.50	410.40	+ 3.30	1.80
UK Income #	242.10	257.20	+ 2.00	3.30
Latin American	22.27	23.86	+ 0.80	
Mgd Gwth Port	104.80	108.70	+ 0.10	0.64
Pacific #	53.69		+ 0.67	
Pref High Inc #	27.01	.	- 0.50	7.08
Tokyo #	127.40		+ 0.60	
UK Smaller Cos	249.00	264.60	- 0.10	1.32
Japan Sm Cos ‡	206.00	.	+ 1.40	.
Nth Amer	649.00	686.10	+ 0.80	
For Dly Pfolio see Bermuda				
ENDEAVOUR FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 323 7881				
Endeavour Fd	356.10	372.40	- 3.30	1.35
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01256 431 400				
European	142.89	150.41	+ 2.40	1.29
Ethical Tst	54.91	57.99	+ 0.73	1.40
Far Eastern	213.27	224.49	+ 4.06	1.63
High Income	178.16	188.59†	+ 1.32	3.69
UK Index Trking	71.74	75.52	+ 1.02	2.18
Int Growth	138.67	145.92	+ 1.00	1.88
North American	208.40	219.40	+ 2.44	1.26
Pacificap	190.02	200.06†	+ 2.32	2.30
Smaller Cos	97.66	71.42	+ 0.14	2.38
Special Sits	60.48	55.24	+ 0.60	2.08
Tst of Inv Trs	236.10	248.52	+ 1.53	1.75
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	152.53	161.84†	+ 0.21	.
Fd of Inv Trsts	58.98	62.58	- 0.05	.
High Income #	40.40	52.48†	+ 0.04	8.01
Inst & Gt Dom	54.96	62.56	+ 0.01	
Zero Preference	51.25	54.40	+ 0.07	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Acct Tst	132.20	140.60†	+ 0.10	1.90
Chw Ass Ein	344.39	365.70†	+ 0.40	2.20
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Customer Private Clients: 0800 414 101				
Cash Funds				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	0.60
Bond Funds				
Int Bond ‡	27.73	7	+ 0.12	4.64
Income Funds				
High Income ‡	34.34		- 0.12	4.58
Income Plus #	106.70		+ 0.60	4.00
Monthly Inc Gwth #	42.34		- 0.29	3.17
Equity Funds				
ASEAN ‡	14.43			
American ‡	615.60		+21.50	
Amer Spec Sits ‡	254.20		+ 4.60	
European ‡	334.80		+ 1.60	0.32
European Opps ‡	133.38		+ 1.00	0.40
Global Prov ‡	41.00		+ 0.72	0.20
UK Growth ‡	160.40		+ 0.60	1.22
Growth & Inc #	740.20		+ 1.70	3.31
Intl PEP ‡	68.130		+1.050	1.01
Japan Spec Sits ‡	58.25		+ 1.04	.
Japan ‡	145.80		+ 1.20	
Managed Intl ‡	516.10		+12.30	0.58
Worldwider Inc ‡	25.94		+ 0.11	6.31
Worldwider Plus	82.68	82.05	+ 1.50	0.00

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Recovery ‡	80.330	. .	+0.120	3.04
South E Asia ‡	166.30	. .	+ 2.40	1.35
Special Sits ‡	855.70	. .	+ 3.90	1.32
Specialist Funds				
Cash Account Units	128.84	128.84	+ 0.02	6.60
FLEMINGS PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 014 4200				
Balanced #	168.90	168.70	. .	1.67
Finsbury Pnl Inc #	115.80	117.00†	+ 0.10	0.51
Cap Prfdn	212.20	213.70	+ 2.00	0.04
General Opps	177.80	178.90†	. .	3.21
Growth Inc	49.13	49.67†	+ 0.20	0.80
Private Portfolio	628.70	634.50	. .	1.82
FORESTER & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 688 366 Admin/Fnl 01277 688 300				
Euro Smlr Cos	230.00	237.80	- 0.40	.
High Income	21.66	20.00†	+ 0.23	8.70
UK Smlr Cos	30.10	32.28	+ 0.02	2.13
US Smaller Cos	538.20	559.80†	+ 5.30	...
FRANKLINSTON UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Dlg 0171 330 8500 Dealing: 0345 776511				
American Growth	137.40	145.30	+ 2.00	..
-do- Accum	137.40	145.30	+ 2.00	.
Amer Smlr Cos	184.80	187.80	+ 4.10	..
-do- Accum	578.20	723.10	+ 4.30	
Capital Tst	375.30	398.30	- 2.70	1.43
-do- Accum	564.00	601.00	- 4.20	1.48
Dist Smlr Cos	72.89	77.92		
-do- Accum	78.23	83.65		
Convertible	153.80	162.60	- 0.30	5.77
-do- Accum	364.00	384.20	- 0.30	5.77
Emerging Markets	38.10	41.84	+ 0.59	0.07
-do- Accum	38.48	42.19	+ 0.62	0.07
European	229.10	242.80	+ 3.20	...
-do- Accum	243.56	257.96	+ 3.40	
Extra Income	482.50	513.70	+ 1.90	3.86
-do- Accum	808.20	872.60	+ 3.00	3.86
Financial	260.10	276.80†	+ 1.10	0.08
-do- Accum	281.76	299.70†	+ 1.10	0.08
Gilt Trust	67.60	69.70†	+ 0.08	5.50
-do- Accum	117.10	120.70†	+ 0.10	5.50
Health Fund Inc	237.60	254.10†	+ 2.10	.
-do- Accum	237.00	254.10†	+ 2.10	.
Income D. Growth	278.00	287.90†	- 1.30	3.93
-do- Accum	404.00	404.50†	- 2.30	3.93
Intl Growth	498.00	001.40†	+ 5.50	
-do- Accum	554.70	588.80†	+ 5.80	.
Japan & Gen	111.10	117.40	+ 1.10	.
-do- Accum	112.20	118.60	+ 1.00	
Monthly Inc #	245.80	261.50†	+ 1.50	4

هكذا من الأصل

POP

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Don't carp, this could be a world record

You don't have to be mad to be an artist, but a little endearing quirkiness never did any harm. Tonight, in the fair port of Grimsby, what is claimed to be the world's longest painting will be unveiled in its full glory for the first time. It is an eye-stretching 200 metres long by 1.5 metres high: it has been painted in watercolour by a 62-year-old Chinese refugee called Hai Shuet Yeung; and it is called *Culture 5000* — this being a reference to the 5,000 years of Chinese civilisation that it celebrates.

And if you think this sounds a bit fishy, you would be right. Yeung's painting depicts shoals of brilliantly coloured carp — the Chinese symbol of good fortune. There are 5,000 carp, of course, and Yeung says that they will be in "a variety of moods". (Just how many moods does a carp have?)

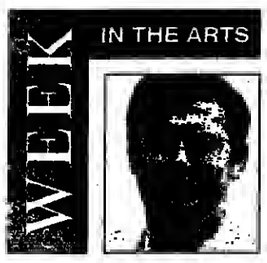
What's more, this vast example of Chinese "scroll" art will be unveiled in Grimsby Fish Market. But this may have less to do with the fish connection, and more to do with the fact that there aren't many buildings in Britain long enough to mount a 200-metre painting.

Naturally, Yeung has been snubbed by the metropolitan art clique. He was refused membership of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, and has been disdainfully ignored by the London critics. But the local community has got behind him. North East Lincolnshire Council is backing the unveiling of his (in every sense) *magnum opus*; and the event is being organised by none other than the Rotary Club of Cleethorpes. A 200-metre roll of paper has been specially manufactured by a generous mill, and a local sheet-metal company has undertaken the challenge of holding the thing upright.

None of which is surprising, for Yeung is a local hero. In his native China he was a chemistry teacher, but he fell foul of the authorities and fled to Hong Kong. He came to Grimsby 30 years ago, worked as a waiter, then opened an art gallery over his Chinese restaurant.

His 5,000 carp don't come out of the blue, so to speak. To mark the handover of Hong Kong in 1997 he painted a ten-metre *Hong Kong Fish Scroll* — of 1,997 carp, naturally. *Culture 5000* has taken months to complete; a bit of it (a mere football-pitch length) was shown at the London Contemporary Art and Design Show in June.

After Grimsby, Yeung hopes to take it on an international tour, after which he intends to cut it into 100 pieces and sell it to museums and collectors. The first piece he wants to give to the National Museum in Beijing; the last he has earmarked for a leading British museum. That, he says, will symbolise the "cultural bridge between China, my motherland, and Britain, my fatherland".



RICHARD MORRISON

Good luck to him. His sparkling shoals of carp may not have the trendy shock-impact of Damien Hirst's dead shark, but you will never see another watercolour remotely like this one.

And what do the eagle-eyed scrutineers at the *Guinness Book of Records* say about its claim to be the world's longest painting? "We don't usually monitor the length of paintings," sniffs a spokeswoman. Shame on you, madam. "But we would certainly consider it," she adds, more generously. Then catch the Grimsby train this very afternoon! History is being made.

Or if not Grimsby, what about Exeter? Yes, history is being made there *as well*. At 7.30 tonight 150 local people — randomly chosen from 600 volunteers — will gather at the Northcott Theatre. Just 24 hours later they will perform a full-blown production of a famous musical.

Right now they don't even know *which* musical. That will be revealed when they meet. Then will come a frantic all-night-and-day of auditioning, script-learning, rehearsing, set-building, costume-making, programme-writing — and of course panicking.

There will be 25 "pros" backstage to guide the volunteers. Even so, putting on a musical is a process that normally takes Cameron Mackintosh or Lord Lloyd-Webber about three years. In Devon this weekend that corny old line from the Mickey Rooney films — "Hey kids, why don't we do the show *right here and now*?" — will acquire a whole new significance.

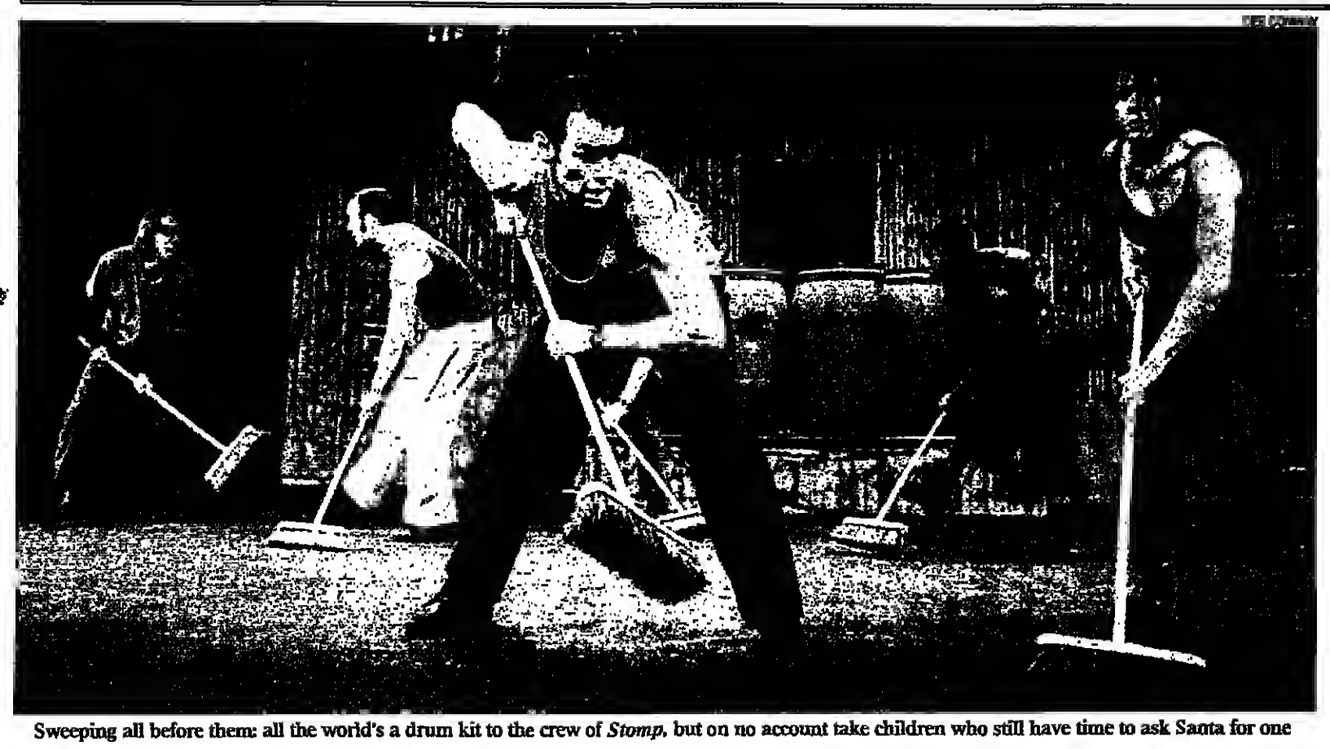
And it will lead to just one performance. "We reckoned that, after 24 hours without sleep, adrenalin would carry them through one show, but asking them to repeat it on Sunday might be courting disaster," says a Northcott spokesman.

The concept, you won't be surprised to learn, is called a "mad show", and has been introduced around the country by a theatre pioneer called Sarah Robinson. But this is the first time that a big repertory theatre has become involved.

To me, it doesn't sound mad at all. We live in an age that takes its cultural lead from Hollywood. Most shows are rehearsed, polished, edited, rewritten, recut and market-tested into sterility before the public gets a look in. Even allegedly "improvised" TV satire is scripted and packaged into dull safety. Spontaneity, instant creativity, danger: those qualities have been quietly erased from showbiz.

I don't say that every production should accelerate from nought to first night in just 24 hours. But once in a while, someone should walk the tightrope in public without a safety net.

Besides which, few things entertain the British public more than a wild race against time. Witness the present macabre fascination with the disastrous non-progress of the Jubilee Line towards the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. I hope that the intrepid 24-hour thespians of Exeter are more successful than that. Break 150 legs, darlings.



Sweeping all before them: all the world's a drum kit to the crew of *Stomp*, but on no account take children who still have time to ask Santa for one

Gypsy in her Spanish soul

La Cuadra de Sevilla's *Carmen* is a wonderful and unexpected show that veers well away from the usually Gypsy menu. Described as an Andalusian folk opera with bugles and drums, it evokes the culture of Spain more vividly than anything you have probably seen before — although it helps to like the distinctive, piercing sound of Spanish processional music. This is a ritualistic semi-staging, using song, music, dance and startling theatrical effects. There is even a white stallion trained in the *haute école* prances of the Spanish Riding School.

The horse is ridden by a picador (Jaime de la Puerta) who in this version is Don José's rival. This *Carmen* goes back to the allegedly true life-story of a *cigarrera* (cigarette maker), who lived in the early 19th century, and removes the distortions imposed by Prosper Mérimée's novella and Bizet's opera. Here, Carmen is not sexually manipulative, but a heroine, more sympathetic, more logical and profound, who campaigns for the rights and dignity of working-class women.

She rejects Don José not because she has simply moved on to another liaison, but because Don José represents the reactionary military establishment which has just executed General Rafael de Riego (Juan Romero) for supporting a progressive constitution.

The dance representations of death are extraordinarily powerful. Lalo Tejada's Carmen is stabbed in the stomach — though not literally, thankfully, given the fearsome sharpness of the knife stuck into the floor throughout the whole performance. Before that, Carmen has duly rolled cigarettes on her bared thigh and, a revolutionary figurehead, has stood in a red dress next to a giant fluttering flag during the Riego episode. Like El Mistela as Don José, she had also given her heart and body to lengthy, exhausting dances. Their final recriminatory duet, she kneeling with upflung arms, is almost unbearably intense, heightened by the sudden burst of bugles and drums.

The staging is simple but concentrated, the choreography for the soldiers contributing an appropriately militaristic elegance, the Band of the Santisimo Cristo de Las Tres Caidas (a processional brotherhood) arranged on either side like a regimental parade.

The singers and guitarists sit with them, among them a riveting male singer who acts with his voice and gestures and turns out to be the director and creator of the show, Salvador Távora.

NADINE MEISNER

Drumming up a fierce new storm

DANCE

Having been told that *Stomp* has a global audience of 206 million, I can see little point in explaining the thing. But the fact that much of this exposure has been via television gives me hope, since it guarantees that at least 200 million of you were too busy eating pizza or arguing with the dog to pay attention. I ask you box-gogglers to cast your mind back to more innocent times; the lunch table in the school dining-room, perhaps. Was there a time when, driven by teenage ennui or whatever, your hit your knife against the side of your cup and discovered that it made a noise? And did you then proceed to hit other things with your knife to produce a selection of rhythmic clankings? And did your friends join in? Even unto the point of being hauled up in front of the headmaster? That, in a nutshell, is *Stomp*.

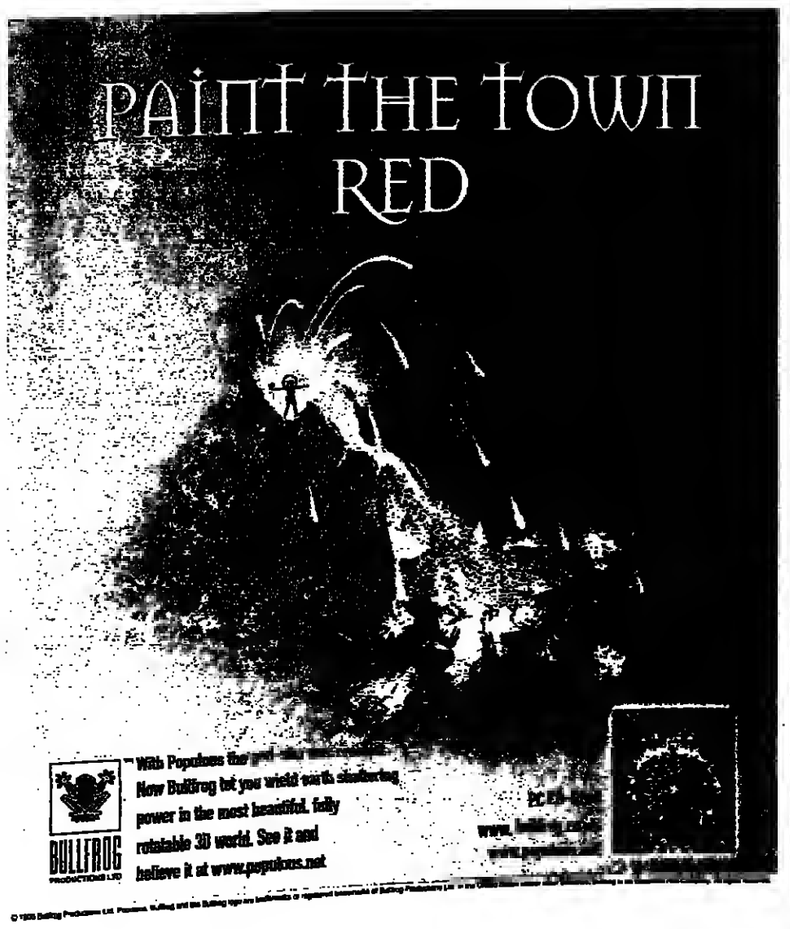
The *Stomp* principle is that all the world is a drum kit, and there is a duty to hit it in as many and as varied ways as possible, whether this involves tap dancing on sand or biffing each other over the head with plastic tubing. Theoretically this occurs in a mechanics' workshop, as styled by Herb Ritts and supplied by a very overexcited Hollywood prop buyer (car parts and a cement mixer in the same place? Very unorthodox).

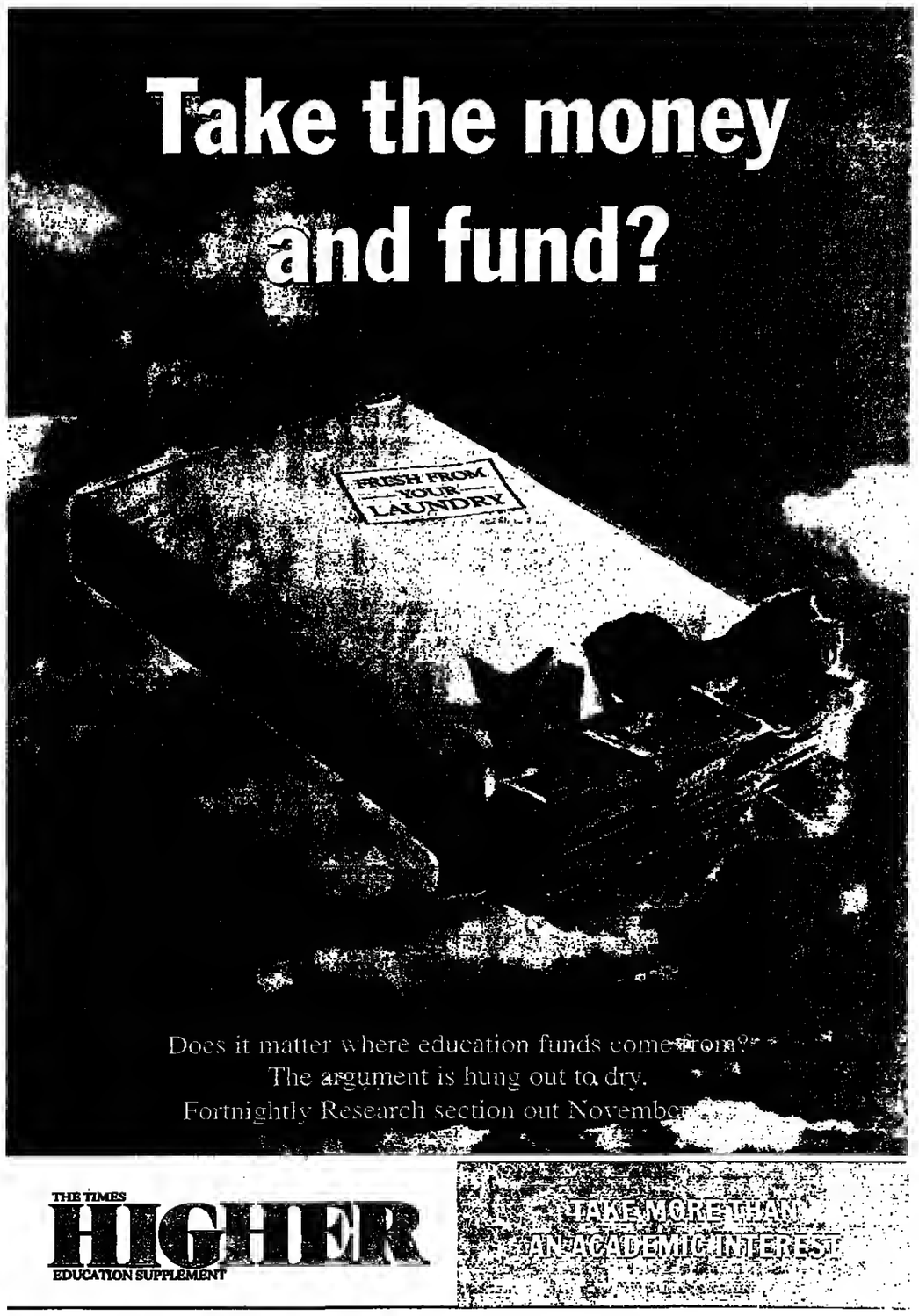
Aurally it hits the same switches as a martial band or an Iron John workshop; something in those crazy rhythms speaks to the long-lost co-ordinated part deep down inside the British soul; it's drumming and it feels good.

The news that any show is an international hit is not automatic encouragement: a five-year off-Broadway run leads one only to the unpleasant suspicion that Louise Woodward went to see it 17 times in a row; and after all, it is not so long since a lot of people thought *Riverdance* was a good idea. Fortunately, top boy Luke Cresswell has yet to spray body oil on his chest or start sporting nifty little hairbands. Indeed, *Stomp* is unlike anything else around: a bad-tempered, noisy dance show that is terribly funny, unexpectedly involving and, even after performances on the Moon and a private audience with the Pope, still manages to feel fresh and exciting.

Stomp is back in its native land for five months, so the remaining 300 million of you can get to see it. Just a few words of advice: don't meet these people for a breakfast meeting with a hangover, and whatever you do, don't take any children to see the show while there is still time to ask Santa for a drum kit.

HETTIE JUDAH





■ POP OPINION

After the ball was over . . .

Party animals get in line

Next time someone offers you a pass to an aftershow party — say no and go home to *Newsnight*

One of my favourite things in the whole wide world is getting a pass to an aftershow party. I don't use the pass myself; heavens no. My house has a very large television, and as a band's last chord fades into the fetid murk of the London Astoria, my thoughts turn irrevocably towards *Newsnight*. But it's utterly thrilling to go up to a sweaty fan staggering out of the mosh-pit and say to them: "Would you like a pass to the aftershow?" They don't believe you at first: they stare thunderstruck at the little stick-on pass. Then comes the burbling — they're hopelessly dehydrated from all that bouncing around, and their tongues appear to be welded to their palate.

But when they finally do speak, it's always a bewildered inquiry as to why, why, WHY anyone would willingly give up their pass into rock'n'roll Valhalla.

Well, it's simply because while one giddity imagines an aftershow to be some kind of stellar mardi-gras crammed to the gunnels with ice sculptures, fire-juggling showgirls and Elizabeth Taylor going shotgun on a can of Stella they are, sadly, crammed with six staff members of the *NME*, someone in marketing from Polydor and Mark Lamarr standing in a small, crowded room, poncing fags off each other, and shouting over some unnecessarily loud techno. The band never turn up — they too have houses with large televisions, and go home to watch *Newsnight*.

CAITLIN MORAN

It's quite mortifying watching sundry liggers going about getting into these things: as the venue rapidly empties, these slightly drunken, furtive-looking people scull around, desperately trying to track down someone with a pass.

And these are not, lest we forget, glamorous places. Take, for instance, the Brixton Academy, one of Britain's premiere gig-sheds with a 3,000 capacity, and decorated to look like an Ancient Roman amphitheatre. Aftershow parties there are notoriously difficult to get into: press officers can easily lose themselves in the crowds, necessitating search groups of thirsty liggers combing the audience like policemen searching wasteland for a dead body. However, all efforts go supremely unrewarded, as the "parties" (no free beer — that has always vanished by the time one gets there) take place in a putrid green corridor where the floor is permanently awash under a greasy film of cider, and the bar is as large as the average family's dining-room table. You could put yourself on an NHS waiting-list for non-malignant mole-removal and get seen to sooner.

The Brixton Academy Aftershow Experience also exemplifies the other tedious facet of these shindigs: it has only one female lav. Often, the half-hour queue for the lavs merges with the queue for the bar, and one is faced with the cruel situation of being asked what you want to drink, when your bladder is as full as an over-pumped football.

Anyway, it doesn't matter how many toilets a venue has, because they are very rarely being used for the purpose for which they were ordained. This being the music industry, toilets are predominantly used for those following the Ways of Gallagher, ie, snorking up huge lines of coke. Now, there are many reasons to hate cocaine: it fuels huge gangs of Colombian murderers; it prompts pompous, unlistenable albums; it turns anyone under the influence into a gabbling tit-wit you'd gladly kill your mother to get away from.

The reason I hate cocaine, however, is because I have an Achilles bladder. If Class A drugs were legal, at least these idiots could snuffle away in quiet corners, leaving those with a genuine medical need free run of the cubicles.

So if you've never been to an aftershow, and would still like to sample the unique atmos, go home, shut your toilet door and take the handle off so you can never get in there again. Put on a record you hate REALLY LOUDLY; spend half an hour warming up some beer in a saucepan and decant it on the floor; and try to drag Mark Lamarr along for the ride.

And to everyone I've ever given a pass to: sorry.

■ LIVE GIG

Unconvincing Imbruglia

Winsome, lose some

There has always seemed something slightly phoney about Natalie Imbruglia. Why, for instance, did the Australian singer need five producers and nine co-writers on her debut album, *Left of the Middle*? Such production-line hit-making is fine, except that, when asked about her influences, Imbruglia reeled off a list of highly credible singer-songwriters apparently tailored to signal that we should treat her as a serious artist rather than another pop sensation.

Her cause was not helped by the row over her biggest hit, *Torn*. Of course, the Imbruglia camp will tell you that she never actually claimed authorship, but she hardly went out of her way to correct those who assumed she was baring her own soul in the song or to acknowledge Ednaswap, the rather fine Los Angeles band that actually wrote it.

LIVE GIG

Natalie Imbruglia
Forum, NW5

As a live performer, too, Imbruglia's decaffeinated approach does little to dispel the doubts. If she sometimes wonders what she has to do to shed the description "former *Neighbours* star", the answer is a lot more than this. For the first 45 minutes at the Forum she played a set of competent folk-pop that was curiously devoid of both charm and conviction. Her songs attempt to convey a personal emotional narrative, but she appeared to lack the distinctive personality required to carry it off.

Although she was on stage in front of several hundred people, it was almost as if she was hiding from us. *Smoke*, her most recent single, was a case in point. It sounded like something from the Corrs songbook, except that whereas the Irish band would have given it an alluring sheen all their own, Imbruglia's delivery was polished but characterless. The overall effect was like taking a walk around Ikea: vaguely stylish but in a non-challenging, risk-free sort of way.

Then suddenly, on her last two numbers, the pounding *Impressed* and the tough-sounding *Don't You Think?*, she changed tack and decided to play the rock babe. For the first time in the evening she appeared animated rather than detached. But even then it was hard to tell if she was merely deploying her acting skills.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

If pop poppet Natalie Imbruglia really wants to lose the tag of "former *Neighbours* star", she'll have to come across as less of an actress onstage.

Paul Sexton joins Roddy Frame, once of Aztec Camera, for a one-off Outer Hebrides gig

Go down a storm off the beat track

John Laurie, in his role as the classic screen Scotsman Private Frazer of *Dad's Army*, would roll his eyes in that wild, haunted way of his and blether about his childhood on "the loooooneeee

هكذا من الأصل

■ POP ALBUMS
Springsteen trifles

ARTS

■ JAZZ ALBUMS
Herbie Hancock revisited

The Boss clears out his old files

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
Tracks
(Columbia COL 492605: four discs £34.99)

AS THE British chart succumbs to the seasonal deluge of Greatest Hits albums, you begin to wonder if any of the world's major pop acts are going to release anything new ever again. More insidious, but just as commonplace, has been the rise of the "rarities" compilation, usually a chance to smuggle into the shops a raft of old material ranging from the marginally substandard to the unacceptable.

As with most things to do with rock'n'roll, the idea took root with Elvis Presley, but only really flourished after the overwhelming success of the Beatles' *Anthology* series. Now everyone is at it.

Although Bruce Springsteen's *Tracks* is a superior example of the genre, it conforms to the established guidelines which are basically: 1) less quality, more quantity and 2) the more doubtful the provenance of the music, the more lavish the packaging.

So *Tracks* is a 66-track, four-disc set, enveloped in a lush bed of folding laminated cardboard. The musical journey stretches from the audition recordings that secured Springsteen his recording contract in 1972 — just a Dylan-influenced voice, a lot of words and an approximately strummed acoustic guitar — to a less verbose number called *Gave it a Name*, recorded just three months ago.

The majority of the tracks have never been released before, but so prodigious is Springsteen's output that he has not had to include any fouled-up performances or bits of Lennon-esque studio banter to top up the package. Some tracks are "understudies" of songs that made it on to the finished albums (*Zero and Blind Terry*, for instance, is an unmistakably close relation of *Rosalita*); others were sidelined because they did not fit the mood of a particular album or period — and some were simply not good enough then and, unsurprisingly, are no better now.

Springsteen calls these songs the "ones that got away", and there is plenty here for his students to pore over and admire. But at the end of the day, *Tracks* is more about filling the gaps in his release schedule than adding to our enjoyment of his work.

NEW POP ALBUMS

GOLDIE
Ring of Saturn
(ffrr/London 570 353 £6.66)

RETREATING somewhat from the over-extended tedium of his double-album, *Saturnzreturn*, released earlier this year, Goldie attempts to get back on track with *Ring of Saturn*, a short album that holds out the smallest of olive branches to those not wholly immersed in the infinite groove that is drum'n'bass.

The opening track is a reprise of his hour-long opus, *Mother*, boiled down to a more manageable seven minutes, which is what he should have done with it in the first place. *What You Won't Do For Love (Radio Edit)*, featuring the warm, jazzy vocals of his long-time associate Diane Charlemagne, is an excursion into the more accessible realms currently being explored by his former record label colleagues 4 Hero.

But other tracks such as *Hyena 1* and *Kaiser Salsek*, with their minimalist rhythm tracks and harsh, repetitive haunted-house noises are less forgiving and less interesting. It seems that despite his pioneering credentials, Goldie is now happy to remain stuck in a hardcore ghetto.

KIRK FRANKLIN
The Nu Nation Project
(Gospo Centric/ Interscope IND 90178 £15.99)

"AT THE name of Jesus every knee has got to bow/You don't have to wait until the fire comes/You can go on and shout and praise Him right now." Yes indeed. Kirk Franklin is a singer who takes his gospel message seriously and literally. He is also a star of impeccably modern credentials in soul and hip hop circles, a man who can recruit R. Kelly, Mary J. Blige and, er, Bono to assist on his song *Lean on Me*, turning it into such a showboating tour de force that you almost forget what a terrible dirge it actually is.

Elsewhere, on *Riverside* and *If You've Been Delivered*, Franklin and his army of backing singers harness their voices to some mighty funk grooves, the sheer zeal of their performances sending the energy level shooting off the scale.

HELL
Munich Machine
(Disko B/V2 VVR100318 £14.99)

HELL is the *nom du decks* of German techno star Helmut Geier, a DJ who combines sleek Teutonic house and electro rhythm tracks with a warped but plainly detectable sense of drama and humour. The influence of Kraftwerk and Giorgio Moroder pervades *Munich Machine*, but Hell puts a distinctly 1990s spin on numbers such as *Dominatrix*, with its ice-maiden voiceover, and on his eccentric cut-and-paste versions of songs previously performed by artists as diverse as Grace Jones (*Warm Leatherette*) and Barry Manilow (*Copa*).

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(3)	Ladies & Gentlemen — the Best Of	George Michael (Epic)
2	(5)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(8)	Talk on Corners	The Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(4)	The Best of	M People (M People)
5	(21)	The Best of 1980-1990	U2 (Island)
6	(2)	The Masterplan	Oasis (Creation)
7	(13)	One Night Only	Bee Gees (Polydor)
8	(1)	The Best of 1980-1990 & B-Sides	U2 (Island)
9	(20)	Modern Classics — the Greatest Hits	Paul Weller (Island)
10	(9)	Hits	Phil Collins (Virgin)

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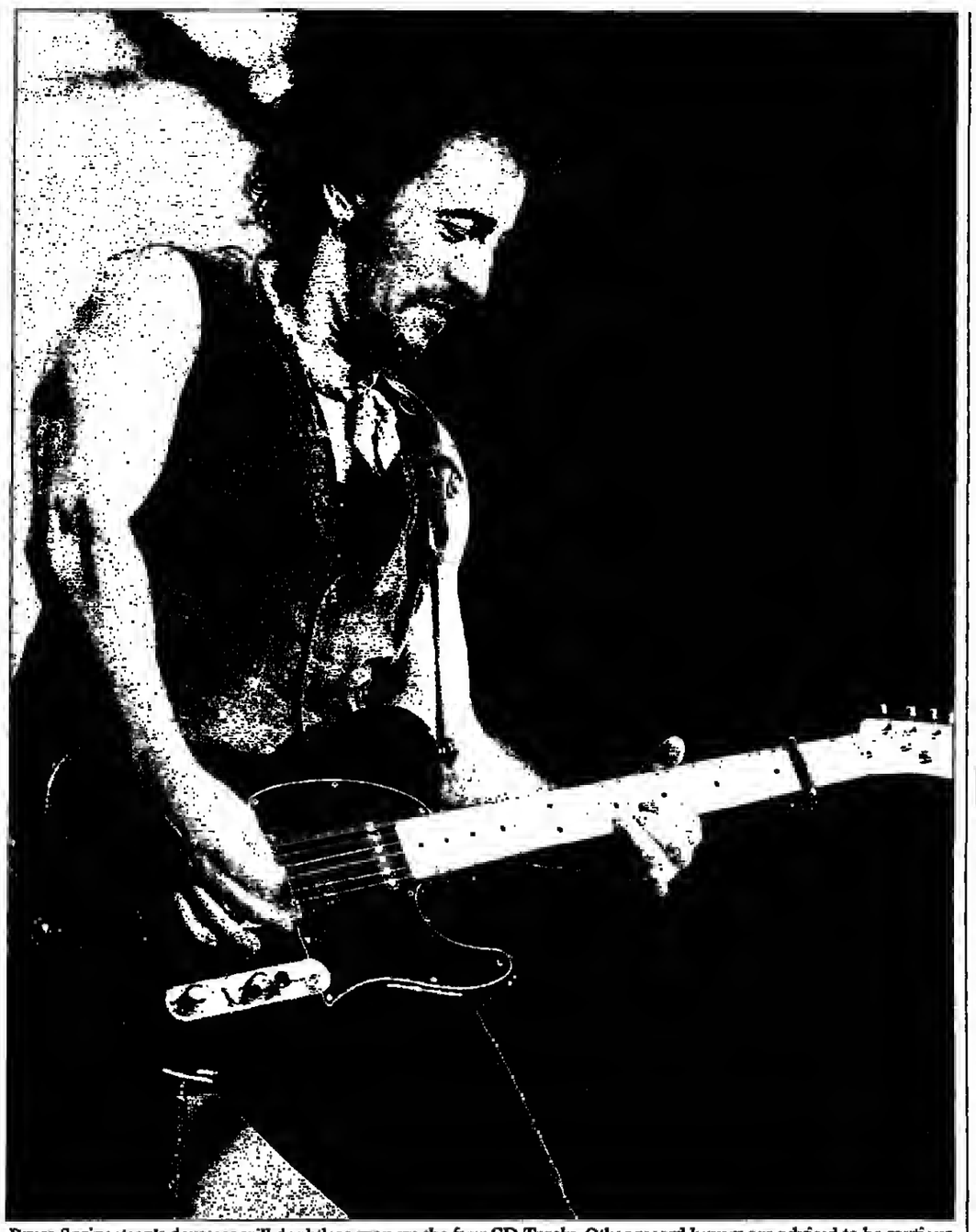


Bruce Springsteen's devotees will doubtless snap up the four-CD *Tracks*. Other record buyers are advised to be cautious

Hancock's finest hour

JAZZ ALBUMS

HERBIE HANCOCK
The Complete Blue Note Sixties Sessions
(Blue Note B2BN 7243 4 95569 2 8)
Gershwin's World
(Verve 557 797-2)

THOSE who complain about the relative lack of originality, spontaneity and ebullience in the 1990s jazz recorded by musicians who rose to prominence with the Blue Note label in the 1960s might be forgiven for assuming their case proven by the evidence provided on these two issues.

Herbie Hancock's *Sixties Sessions* collects, on six CDs in a lavishly annotated book-style box, his seven Blue Note albums, from his extraordinary debut, *Takin' Off*, containing *Watermelon Man* and featuring Dexter Gordon and Freddie Hubbard, to 1969's *The Prisoner*, plus assorted alternative takes and Hancock compositions from contemporaries' albums for the same company.

The pianist's latest release, *Gershwin's World*, is a "project" in which a selection of pieces by Gershwin and related composers is interpreted by Hancock and a series of stellar guests, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Kathleen Battle and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra among them. As a gala concert it might have succeeded, but as an album, with its succession of ill-assorted contributors parachuted in, it is simply unsettling, its sheer heterogeneity overwhelming.

The Blue Note sessions, by contrast, positively sparkle with freshness and enthusiasm: alongside Hancock, the likes of George Coleman, Hank Mobley, Ron Carter and Tony Williams are active, vital participants in the music rather than — as with the Verve recording — almost incidental to it, drafted in as much for the commercial impact of having their names on the album's cover sticker as for any strictly musical reasons. Hancock's early albums are still essential listening; it is hard to imagine his Gershwin project still attracting attention in 2030.

CHRIS PARKER

Ready steady dance

Soul music was a true child of the 1960s. At the start of the decade it had still to free itself from its gospel and vocal group roots, by the end some felt its best days were over. But what is undisputed is that the music created during that time continues to exert a huge influence.

It was heard over here in clubs like the Flamingo in London and the Twisted Wheel in Manchester. Both are remembered in new CDs. **From Route 66 to the Flamingo** (*Stateside 496 5012*) reprises such turntable hits as Barbara George's *I Know* and Inez and Charlie Foxx's *Hurt by Love*, while **The Twisted Wheel Story One More Time** (Goldmine GSCD112) features the Detroit rhythms of *Oh How Happy* by Shades of Blue and the Booker T-like *Hole in the Wall* by the Packers.

British record-makers were quick to produce homegrown versions of the Motown sound. The best efforts were usually by American singers

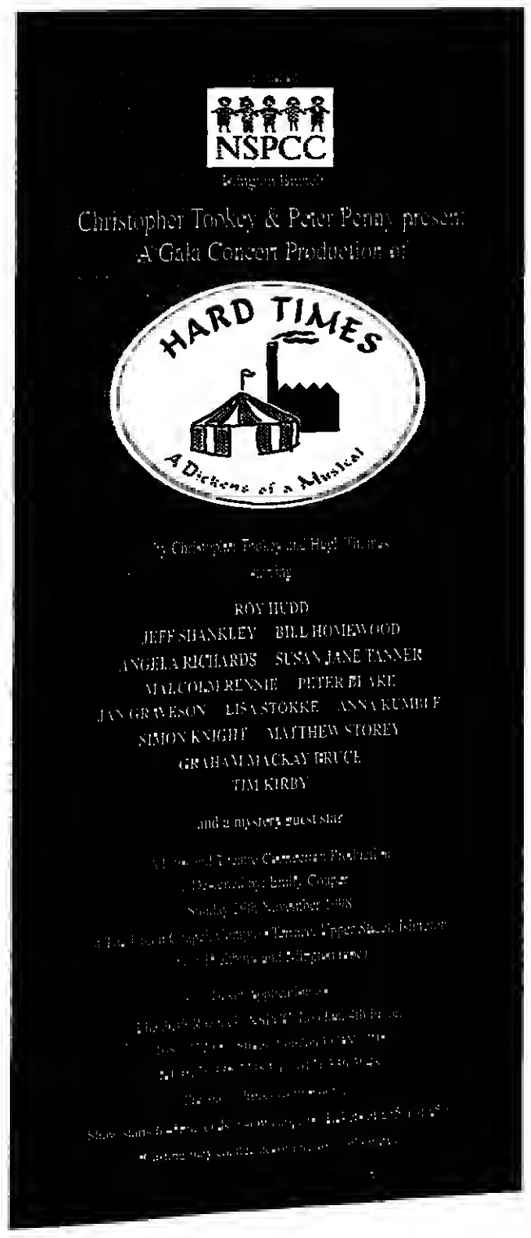
SOUL ALBUMS

resident in Britain, such as Geno Washington, or West Indians such as Jimmy James, both of whom can be heard on **Dance Like The Devil** (Sequel NEMCD 972) and **Soul For Sale** (NEMCD 975).

Back in the States, the soul music scene in the Sixties was still regional and incredibly varied. In New York, the Roulette family of labels were recording Brenda Jo Harris and Jerry Williams Jr as well as a dozen or so other artists to be heard on **Doctor Good Soul** (Westside WESM525) while the Jubilee label was creating one of the true classics of the era in the shape of the emotional tour de force *Cry To Me* by Betty Harris now to be heard on **Soul Perfection Plus** (Westside WESA807).

In Chicago, Barbara Acklin, the Chi-Lites and Tyrone Davis reigned. Acklin's infectious *Am I The Same Girl* is on a two albums on one CD reissue, **Love Makes a Woman/ Seven Days of Night** (Edsel DIAB 868), while the smooth harmony of the Chi-Lites on hits like *Oh Girl* and *Have You Seen Her* can be found on **The Highlights from The Chi-Lites** (Edsel DIAB 872). Best of all is the work of Davis, a soul singer with a bluesman's voice whose superb *Can I Change My Mind* plus his other R&B chart hits are on **Turning Back the Hands of Time** (Edsel DIAB 873).

JOHN CLARKE



Clive Davis meets Eric Bibb, freebooting citizen of the 12-bar world

A passport coloured blues

The most memorable blues album of 1997 did not arrive from any of the obvious sources. Not from the Delta, nor from Chicago's South Side, nor from the roadside bars of Texas. No, you have to look several thousand miles to the east to find Eric Bibb's adopted home.

Raised in New York, the singer has long lived the expatriate life in Stockholm, gathering together a group of local players in order to prove that modern blues music has attained the status of an international language. The album in question, *Good Stuff*, established him as a major contemporary voice.

His reputation advanced even further this summer when he joined his mentor Taj Mahal at a one-day heritage festival at the Barbican. Although Mahal enjoyed top billing, Bibb's soulful amalgam of traditional songs, gospel and gentle domestic ballads made an even bigger impression. With a six-piece acoustic band mixing a mandolin with steel-string guitars, he has embarked on a tour which included two nights at London's Jazz Café. It would be a pity if only hardcore blues enthusiasts turned out to hear him: his pristine vocals and fertile melodies ought to appeal to anyone raised on the singer-songwriter tradition that embraces troubadors as varied as the late Ted Hawkins, James Taylor and Joni Mitchell.

Bibb, 45, is carrying on a family tradition. His father, Leon, became one of the stalwarts of the Greenwich Village coffee house folk scene of the 1960s; his uncle, John Lewis, is leader of the hugely popular chamber group, the Modern Jazz Quartet. When Lewis played a rare club date in London earlier this year, his nephew was in the audience. The two men are now talking about a collaboration.

"He's got some tunes he says he wants to try," Bibb explains. "I used to go to his home and be knocked out by the fact that he had two grand pianos and a harpischord in the living room. But he's a really bluesy guy too. He'd put Muddy Waters on the record player. I'm sure most of his fans wouldn't expect that."

As a boy, Bibb grew accustomed to seeing musicians passing through the family home. The folk singer Odetta was one regular visitor, and he recalls sitting on the stairs and enjoying a conversation with a young Bob Dylan.

He first moved to Stockholm, via Paris, in the 1970s. Invited to the city one summer, he decided to stay for a decade. Although he later returned to New York for a few years, Europe eventually drew him back again.

While putting down roots in Sweden he supplemented his income by translating children's books into Englisb. *Good Stuff*, his second album for the Swedish Opus 3 label, turned its back on studio artifice, creating an exceptionally natural ambience. On one track, the gospel-flavoured *Where The Green Grass Grows*, a wheezing pump organ was pressed into service to add a touch of revivalism, and Bibb also called on the voices of the Deacons, a gospel quartet who had been prominent on his earlier disc, *Spirit and the Blues*.

The one false step he has made so far was a misconceived electric album, *Me to You*. Released last year on Warners' Code Bleue label, it drained all the individuality out of his songs in a vain quest for commercial airplay.

Happily, the band he is taking on the road will return to the *Good Stuff* format. The spiritual element is particularly close to his heart. "There used to be a lot of blues fanatics who didn't like it, but I find people are more and more receptive now," he says. "The diehards have these preconceptions about the music — it's as if I've got to dress a certain way and drink certain stuff.

"The funny thing is that a lot of their old heroes, going back as far as the 1920s, had a much more mixed repertoire. The recording industry had a lot to do with restricting their output to suit their idea of what the blues were — miserable songs played by half-drunk musicians who were likely to forget to ask to be paid."

The real world, he argues, was much more eclectic. Bibb remains true to tradition in his own way. All he needs is an audience willing to open its ears.

● *Eric Bibb plays The Stables, Wavendon, tomorrow; Old Vic, Bristol, Sun; Corn Exchange, Ipswich (Nov 25); Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (Nov 26); La belle angele, Edinburgh, (Nov 28); Customs House, South Shields, (Nov 29); Irish Centre, Leeds (Nov 30)*

Born in New York but long resident in Stockholm, guitarist Eric Bibb is now winning fans in Britain

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■ LISTINGS

Wooster Group in Belfast

ARTS

■ MUSIC

Magnificent late Tippett

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ORCHESTRA OF THE 18TH CENTURY: The acclaimed period-instrument band under its conductor Frans Brüggen makes its Barbican debut with two of Bach's popular orchestral suites. Also on offer is the composer's celebratory *Magnificat* sung by a cast of young European singers and the Gulbenkian Choir. Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BIRTHDAY CONCERT: The eminent British organist Simon Preston celebrates his 60th birthday with a concert of organ music including works by Bach and Takemitsu. With the trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger. St John's (0171-222 1061).

EURYDICE: Edward de Souza, Ian Targett with Rosanna Lowe as the doomed heroine in rare chance to see an early Anouilh. The Straydogs production turns the auditorium into a seedy station buffet. BAC, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

DANCE UMBRELLA: After a five-year absence New Yorker Doug Elkins and his company of eight dancers return to London for a show of hard-edged, dare-devil physicality drawing on hip-hop, ballet and break-dance. Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

Frans Brüggen makes his Barbican debut

ELSEWHERE

BELFAST: The experimental New York theatre company, the Wooster Group, makes its first visit to Ireland with its unique take on Eugene O'Neill's Expressionist play, *The Hairy Ape*. (Opens tonight in the BT Studio, 8pm). At the same time in the Waterfront Hall the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner perform Vivaldi, Bach and Handel. Festival Box Office: (01232 665577).

CARDIFF: The Secret Seven Save the World, a new adventure by Charles Way, courtesy of Enid Blyton, is set in 1999 with one of the original Seven now a grandfather. Sherman (01222 230 451). Previews tonight, 7pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm.

CRAWLEY: Not a PC rock group, but one of the top brass ensembles on the current scene, the Black Dyke Band arrives for an afternoon of stirring sounds. Part of a brass band season here. Hawth (0293 553636). Sun, 3pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **THE BEST OF TIMES:** The Bridewell Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs from *La Cage aux Folles*, Mame, Mack & Mabel and Hello, Dolly! transfers to the West End. Cast includes Kathryn Evans. Vaudeville (0171-836 9987).

■ **LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Denis Lawson directs Ewan McGregor in David Halliwell's celebrated student fascist play. Hampstead (0171-722 9301).

◪ **STOMP:** Luke Cresswell brings his marvellous percussion troupe back to Britain after too long away. National tour follows. Roundhouse, N1 (0171-420 0171)

□ **SUPPLIANTS:** James Kerr directs his new version of Aeschylus's drama of the daughters of Danaos fleeing from the threat of forced marriage. Originally 50 daughters but probably fewer here. Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **HALF MOON:** Set in a Fitzrovia pub during the Falklands War, Jack Shepherd's play looks at what happens to pacifists and dissenters when the rest of society wants to fight. Southwark Playhouse (0171-620 3494).

◪ **THE STORM:** Susan Lynch, Maggie Steed, Tom Mannion in a revival of Ostrovsky's 1859 drama of a stifling, passionless marriage. Hettie Macdonald directs. Almeida (0171-359 4404).

■ **GUIDING STAR:** Jonathan Harvey's Halborough aftermath play, premiered in Liverpool, comes to the National. Cottesloe (0171-452 3000).

■ **INTO THE WOODS:** Sondheim's nightmarish take on favourite fairy tales. John Crowley directs the winter musical. Donmar (0171-369 1732).

◪ **SIMPLY BARBRA:** Homage to La Streisand by New Yorker specialist Steven Brinberg, who looks and sounds remarkably like the famous lady. Jermyn Street (0171-287 2875).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ANGEL SHARKS (15): Hectic, flashy French film about restless teenagers on the Riviera. With Vahina Giocante and Frederic Malgras; director, Manuel Pradel.

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15): Derivative horror comedy-thriller, with some smart dialogue. Dan Rosen directs Matthew Lillard and Michael Vartan.

THE EEL (18): Shohei Imamura's idiosyncratic and humane drama about a man paroled after serving time for murdering his wife.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG): Ayn Rand's heated novel about a visionary architect, filmed in 1948 with Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal. Grandiose, silly, and compelling. Director, King Vidor.

LES MISERABLES (12): Straight dramatic rendering of Victor Hugo's novel, with Liam Neeson and Geoffrey Rush. OK, but no artistic heights are scaled. Director, Bille August.

RONIN (15): Old-fashioned action thrills with Robert De Niro, Jean Reno and others, seeking to retrieve a mysterious briefcase. Director, John Frankenheimer.

ROUNDERS (15): Lively details, but a dull central performance from Matt Damon as a law student who succumbs to the gambling itch. Director, John Dahl.

CURRENT

BLADE (18): Extravagant, jumbled horror fantasy, fun for a time, with Wesley Snipes as the vampire-hunting action hero from the pages of Marvel Comics.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18): Terry Gilliam's indigestible and wearisome version of Hunter S. Thompson's novel about a journalist on a drugs binge in 1971. With Johnny Depp.

HENRY FOOL (18): Uncouth vagabond shakes up dysfunctional New Jersey family. Whimsical epic from Hal Hartley, with some great moments.

INSOMNIA (15): Homicide cop with frayed nerves tries to solve a teenage girl's murder. Clever and atmospheric Norwegian thriller.

ANTZ (PG): Neurotic ant finds himself a war hero. Ingenious computer-generated animation, matched to the voices of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone and Sylvester Stallone.

Pretty powerful little Hitler

First there was Binoche, then Neeson, then Spacey, then Kidman, and now at the Hampstead Ewan McGregor, anti-hero of *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*. Truly, 1998 has been a rich year for megastars wishing to trek from the screen to the London stage. If Meryl Streep were to play Buttons in a Christmas *Cinderella*, or Charlton Heston Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, it would only be the logic of the times.

McGregor does not literally strip, as Nicole Kidman famously did in *The Blue Room*, but he gives us the half-comically, half-seriously troubled innards of the title-character of David Halliwell's 1966 play, **Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs**. Malcolm Scrawdyke is the surly, rebellious, secretly insecure adolescent of the Sixties, but not only that. He has got his fantasies from Willis Hall's *Billy Liar*, his impotent rage from John Osborne's Jimmy Porter, his beard, lank hair and vaguely military overcoat from some student dive — and, as it seems now, his crazed ambitions from Zhirinovsky.

Malcolm emerges fully clothed from beneath the blankets in his drear, icy Yorkshire garret, burning with resentment at having been sacked from art school for smoking fags outside the door of the Principal, Allard. How is he to hit back? By persuading some fellow-pupils — Joe Duttine's sharp, mischievous Wick, Nicolas Tennant's soft, gormless Ingham and Sean Gilder's goofy, gangling, maddeningly garrulous Nipple — to join him in setting up what they decide to call the Dynamic Erection Party. Its enemies are the supposed castrati of the 1960s Establishment, primarily the awful Allard, who is to be kidnapped, lured into smashing up a Stanley Spencer stolen from a Huddersfield art gallery, and blackmailed.

You have to suspend your disbelief to swallow everything Halliwell throws at you. Isn't the boys' plot unnecessarily preposterous? And why, in the days when student grants were student grants, would even very naive young men renounce their education to follow Little Malcolm?

But this is exactly the challenge facing McGregor. He must have enough authority and charisma to make Wick and Ingham shout "Heil Scrawdyke", plan violent putsches and, as the play darkens, put Nipple on show-trial and join him in beating up the girl he fancies. He must be shy with women, and he must suggest that sexual frustration partly explains rhetoric that gets more murderous by the moment. He must be coward and bully, an embryonic Hitler and that other inadequate artist, Schickelgruber.

THEATRE

Little Malcolm is not a great play but, thanks to political resonances that Denis Lawson's production makes clear, it has stayed interestingly undated. Nor is McGregor able to bring seamless emotional unity to a character Halliwell variously sees as vulnerable, paranoid, silly and dangerous. Yet at different moments he proves capable of sulking and brooding, bashfully squirming and gurgling as he rehearses a love-speech, shrinking into the wall when the lady herself appears, glinting with malice, and banging out orotund nonsense in near-Nuremberg style. His escape from screen to stage is well worth it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

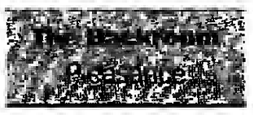
● *This review appeared in some editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Alight with resentment: Ewan McGregor as the vengeful student Malcolm Scrawdyke in David Halliwell's Sixties play

Flouncy boys will be boys

Set in the depths of a gay brothel in Earls Court, Andrew Pagan's play turns out to be a weaker work than its three predecessors in the Soho Theatre Company's current season, for all that it was awarded the company's own Verity Bargate Award. The play can't be faulted for originality of setting: few British plays have gone so far as to people a stage even with female prostitutes, and even though rent boys burst or sidle into a fair number of modern plays they haven't before been seen in their off-moments at work. Michael Wilcox's *Rents* is probably still the most persuasive play about boys on the game, and that dates from 1979.

Pagan's piece does have one character who isn't a prostitute, and he (George Costigan) is the father of the public school boy Charlie (Rufus Wright), trying out his Hugh Grantish looks on the market. Father comes to rescue him, or perhaps to vent anger that he's a ne'er-do-well who should have been the one to die instead of his lovely sister. It is



not clear precisely why he makes his first visit, but second time round it is because he has been summoned by a fellow inmate who has broken "house rules" and fallen for Charlie's charm. The play became less and less convincing by the minute.

The text is brimful of factual details, sums earned, actions required, risks run, deceptions practised, but the flaws come in with the relationships. The flouncy boys flounce and the tough ones act tough, but never do they stray from the basic type the author decides they belong to.

To his credit, he does not go round the cast and give everyone a scene explaining why he should want to earn a living being bullied by the sharp-tongued disciplinarian, or his fractious assistant, who glories (and I mean glories) in the rank of Deputy Madam. But when he does venture into the maner of motives the revelations, such as they are, lack dramatic excitement.

There are signs enough that Pagan may well write a better constructed play, but the lesson to be drawn from Jonathan Lloyd's production is that a full-length new play needs longer than a week's rehearsal to bring it into shape. The weekly reps in days of yore seldom if ever risked a new play, and rehearsal rewrites might have been able to make the play itself as intriguing as its concept.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Vintage creative vitality

MUSIC

Royal Concert
Festival Hall

WITH Tippett's last orchestral score, Strauss's *Four Last Songs* and Brahms's final symphony on the programme, monarchists might well have detected a worrying message behind this year's Royal Concert. Everyone else will simply have relished a line-up of works unusually solid for such events, and drawn satisfaction from the knowledge that it was in support of an excellent and appropriate cause, the Musicians Benevolent Fund.

Late works these may all have been, but even the writing of the 90-year-old Tippett is marked more by creative vitality than by any sense of valediction. With each hearing of *The Rose Lake*, the work's stature, never in doubt anyway, becomes clearer; here, in the hands of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, it emerged as a magnificent tone poem that transports the listener back to the Senegalese lake of its inspiration. Right from the ethereal opening, with rototoms breaking through the rippling surface to reveal mysterious depths, this was a performance that caught all the score's song-like lyricism. Wigglesworth wielded an attentive and scrupulous baton.

Nobody managed to get inside Strauss's late masterpiece in quite the same way. Perhaps because she was standing in at short notice, Janice Watson (replacing the indisposed Joan Rodgers) did not sound completely relaxed: her bright yet warm soprano soared easily, but she never really submitted to the velvety luxuriance of the music. Orchestrally, the performance was a little stiff too, short of that all-enveloping Straussian power, though Janice Graham's magical violin solo in *Beim Schlafengehen* was a heart-stopping moment.

At least Wigglesworth went straight to the emotional core of Brahms's Fourth Symphony in a gripping account that he conducted from memory. His very gentle opening belied the intense inner turmoil he was to find later in the first movement, and from then on there was no place to hide from the restlessness of the work.

Even the slow movement had a certain tension, but that was nothing compared with the biting urgency of the scherzo. Having galvanised his excellent orchestra here, he unfolded the finale's variations with a sure, logical hand, while managing to maintain a feeling of suspense.

JOHN ALLISON

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NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 452 3000 Grps 0171 452 3010 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Tont 7.00, Tomor 1.30 & 7.00 ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA by William Shakespeare. LYTTELTON Tont 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 BETRAYAL by Harold Pinter. COTTESLOE Tont 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 GUIDING STAR a new play by Jonathan Harvey

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 cc 24hrs 344 4444 Grps 405 1567/413 3311 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45

OLD VIC 0171 494 5372 (£1 fee) 'A STAR PERFORMANCE' Grd DAVID SUCHET in *AMADEUS* 'Thrilling Theatrically' MoS BY PETER SCHAFFER 'Highly Theatrical & superbly directed by PETER HALL' Gdn 'Spine Tingling' Ind On Sun 'CRACKING NIGHT OUT' D.Tel 'Riveting' E.Std 'Bewitching' Obs 'EVERYONE MUST GO' NoW Eves Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed 2.30, Sat 3.00

PALACE THEATRE 0171 434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 14TH RECORD BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AVAIL FROM BOX OFFICE

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PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS '...Brings the audience to its feet and shouting its approval' D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

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Wed 25 Nov 7.30pm	WESTMINSTER SCHOOL ORCHESTRA, English Chamber Choir Guy Hopkins & Guy Protheroe conductors, Ruth Davidge, Ann Murray sopranos, Justin Hanmer baritone John Baird: Gloria; Beethoven: Symphony No.5 in C minor £10, £8
Thu 26 Nov 7.30pm	THE HANOVER BAND & CORYDON SINGERS (Women's voices) Matthew Best cond, Nikolai Demidenko pianoforte, Wyne Evans tenor. Beethoven: Paris Connection Series Concert 1 Hérold: Overture Zampa, Beethoven: Sym No.1 in C; Piano Concerto No.5 Emperor, Berlioz: La nuit d'Orphée £20-£8
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And finally, the ITC says goodbye to News at Ten

Nobody wants to see the end of *News at Ten*. It has been part of millions of viewers' personal schedules for more than 30 years. Its presenters, or newscasters as they like to be called, became celebrities in their own right, whether drunk or sober.

ITN's flagship news programme has also been much more innovative over the years than the BBC and achieved a more human touch while still covering the big stories of the day. But while it will get few public plaudits, the Independent Television Commission was right yesterday to switch off *News at Ten*'s life-support system and allow the ITV companies to modernise their schedule.

Politicians have already condemned the ITC, mainly because they like a live news programme that covers the highlights of their often tedious trade. Some have tried to interfere outrageously in what is solely a matter for the ITC.

Some viewers, including influential, letter-writing ones, will see the move as a turning point in British television, as a threat to democracy, even. Others, anonymous but still numerous, will welcome the fact that feature films or long dramas on ITV will no longer be cut in half by 40 minutes of national and regional news every weeknight and new adult comedies and documentaries can be introduced into the schedule. *News at Ten* has become a soft target for other broadcasters pitting some of their best entertainment against it: for 25 per cent of the audience, the bongs of Big Ben were a cue to switch over.

The ITC is right because it must take into account not the fate of just one programme, but the health of the entire ITV system, which risks losing audience share in an increasingly competitive environment. A strong, financially secure ITV, able to raise its investment in original British production, is in the interests of the industry and viewers.

The days when you could fight to the death to protect the position of one programme at a fixed time have gone for ever. In the past six weeks alone digital systems offering more than 100 channels have been launched, and though estimates of when they will reach 50 per cent of the population vary, from 2005 to 2010, broadcasting will never be the same again.

They could have postponed the *News at Ten* decision for a year or two until the problems become really pressing. But it is wiser to tackle the issue now and allow ITV to change a schedule that has been preserved in aspic because of "immovable" fixed points such as *Coronation Street* and *News at Ten*.

The ITC's decision means that its responsibilities become more onerous, not less. It must ensure that the ITV companies do not see what has happened as a licence to print money, or an excuse for providing a less comprehensive news service. This point will become even more relevant next week when the ITC announces a significant cut, for most ITV companies, in the special taxes they pay to the Government for their licences.

The commission is right to insist on a more diverse schedule and no diminution of the commitment to both public service values and high-quality news.

The ITC's agreed review of the change in a year's time should be a searching one.

In particular, the ITC has to watch like a hawk to ensure that the 6.30 programme does not become a fluffy teatime production. For most ITV viewers it will be their main TV news programme, and should be seen as a new opportunity to explain the dangers and opportunities of an increasingly interdependent world to those who will be affected by them — ie, everyone.

Apart from news headlines at ten, there should be a new commitment to interrupting programmes briefly to keep viewers up to date with big breaking stories. Above all, there must be a serious financial and editorial commitment to the planned *News at Eleven*. With proper attention it could become the most important news programme of the day, a summing-up, including the most up-to-date information from the US.

It is more a matter for ITN rather than the ITC, but it would be rather nice if, in a nod towards tradition and continuity, the new programme were opened by 11 bongs from Big Ben.

Football's clash with the snappers goes to extra time

The crisis between newspapers and the Premier League has been delayed, not solved, says **Carol Midgley**

The Sun's "sexy football" spread, top, and the *Young Telegraph* Michael Owen poster

Fleet Street's football photographers have been granted a temporary reprieve. Come Saturday, they and their long lenses will not, after all, be turfed out of Premier League grounds as many an anxious picture editor had feared.

Thanks to a last-chance meeting on Tuesday between Nicholas Rudd-Jones, the chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, and Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the league, a two-week stay of execution has been agreed.

This is the latest development in a lengthening struggle between newspapers and the Premier League over who should control the use of pictures taken at league matches. Further talks will now be held in an attempt to break the deadlock.

Although the crisis has been delayed, it is by no means solved. In earlier talks clubs have been adamant that newspapers should no longer be able to "exploit" or "distort" photographs without asking permission. They claim that the image of Premiership football is being damaged by newspapers using pictures of players — its prime assets — in a cheap, embarrassing or overtly commercial way.

Many members of the NPA, however, are equally adamant that to surrender too much editorial freedom puts them on an extremely slippery slope.

If the NPA signs the new league contract (the old one expired last Saturday), it will mean the end of famously jokey images like *The Sun*'s portrayal of the former England manager Graham Taylor as a turnip-head, and its recent spread which had 11 soccer stars kitted out in stockings and suspenders. This was a play on Ruud Gullit's phrase "sexy football", inspired by a Channel 5 poster of David Batty in high heels, stockings and a Newcastle United shirt.

> It would be the end of The Sun's jokey images

Under the new rule, *The Sun* would have had to telephone each club and ask permission to put each player in stockings. Apart from restrictions of time, it is a fairly safe bet that permission would usually be refused. And while the average reader might not consider that a catastrophic loss to journalism, there are more serious issues at stake.

One picture agency, Empics, has been suspended from entering Premier League grounds for the past three weeks because one of its pictures of the Liverpool striker Michael Owen was bought by *The Daily Telegraph* and turned into a full-page poster spread in its supplement, *Young Telegraph*.

Liverpool FC complained that it had been planning to produce a similar poster a week later, and that the commercial value of its project had been damaged.

Empics' owner, Phil O'Brien, says he is "baffled" that his business is being punished when it did not know how its picture was going to be used.

"I don't know whether we are being used as an example to show the NPA what can happen, but it's possible," he says. "We are a supplier, not a publisher. The Premier League has said that we should not supply pictures for posters — which we don't. We never suspected that a double-page spread in a newspaper would be a poster.

"I don't think that any photo agencies object to what the Premier League is trying to achieve. We understand that clubs have huge wage bills to pay, and want to use their assets as best they can."

He said that both newspapers and clubs had been sympathetic to his plight, adding: "All we want is to get back to normal."

Certain individuals, such as impresarios staging concerts, already impose restrictions on how pictures are used. The Royal Shakespeare Company is also trying to assert more control over pictures from its performances.

The NPA's most recent contract with the league already prohibited newspapers from selling or syndicating posters, calendars, collector's cards and stickers for commercial use, but until now editors have been free to use pictures as they wish in the pages of their newspapers.

Some picture editors have spoken of hitting back by denying the Premiership exposure and organising a campaign against the new restrictions. If newspaper photographers do end up with the red card, picture desks could use photographs supplied by agencies who have signed the contract — but that might defeat the object. At present there is still hope of an amicable solution.

A spokesman for the Premier League said: "There has been a proposed new agreement with a number of agencies to stop certain forms of exploitation and manipulation of photographs without prior permission.

"Certain photographs have been used recently in a way which breaches what we would regard as acceptable.

"If newspapers want to make particular use of photographs, all they have to do is to ask permission and the likelihood is that it would be granted. Rather than each club receiving lots of calls from individual agencies, they would ring us.

"We are merely putting in an additional safeguard to ensure there is no over-manipulation of pictures, and we hope that people will sign."

Andrew Moger, the picture editor of *The Times*, said that the restrictions posed no threat to the standard use of sports pictures. But he added: "During negotiations it has become clear that many clubs would want control over pictures being used in, for example, newspaper competitions, full-page posters and certain promotions.

"They have also raised concern at what they regard as 'horrendous image manipulation'. The concern to all picture editors is the encroachment into normal areas of newsroom activity. The broader issue is that if we relinquish editorial and commercial freedom to the Premier League, it is the thin end of the wedge."

Gibson takes a gamble

Mel Gibson, the Hollywood actor best-known for his roles in *Braveheart* and *Lethal Weapon*, is setting up a film distribution company in Britain, *Chris Ayres writes*.

The 42-year-old, who was born in New York but brought up in Australia, plans to expand his interest in the notoriously risky movie industry with a company called Icon Film Distribution. He has already poached Nick Hill, an executive at the French film group Pathé, to manage the company, which will begin trading early next year. Mr Gibson's long-term business partner, Bruce Davey, will become chairman.

The first films to be distributed by Icon will include *The Million Dollar Hotel* — the much-delayed project involving the U2 singer Bono and the arthouse director Wim Wenders — and *An Ordinary Decent Criminal*, starring Kevin Spacey and Helen Baxendale.

Mr Gibson's first move into the business world was in 1989, when he set up a company with Mr Davey called Icon Productions, mainly to produce the actor's version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The company ended up producing a string of films starring Gibson, including *Forever Young*, *The Man Without a Face* and *Braveheart*.

Now Gibson feels that he can make more money by setting up his own company to distribute Icon's films in the UK. According to recent reports, he has no shortage of cash to invest in Icon, having received an estimated $50 million (£30 million) for appearing in *Lethal Weapon 4*.

The business of film distribution is complex. A distribution company buys the rights to films, then charges companies such as Odeon and Virgin to show them in their cinemas. Most distribution companies pay for all marketing and publicity campaigns for the films to which they own the rights.

Hill says: "The risk is buying the rights, spending a lot of money on an advertising campaign, then waiting a long time to recoup the initial outlay. But there is also the opportunity to release the film on video and to sell the rights to broadcasters."

Mel Gibson: new venture

When a film succeeds, however, distribution companies can negotiate high percentages of box-office revenues and make an almost instant killing. "It is a high-risk, high-return business," Hill says.

PolyGram, the Dutch entertainments company, spent more than $1 billion (about £600 million) building up a film business, a significant part of which was distribution, over eight years, but still failed to make a profit. The company was sold earlier this year, and a question mark still hangs over the future of its film division, PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

Place your bets on the Channel 4 tick-tack men

Bold as brass: Natasha Little as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair*

■ CHANNEL 4's broadcasting ambitions do not stop at snatching cricket from the BBC or launching a new film subscription channel. It is exploring the possibility of launching a subscription racing channel partly financed by interactive betting.

The tick-tack men at Channel 4 have already got the informal nod from the Independent Television Commission (ITC) but the Home Office, which is in charge of gambling legislation, doesn't like the idea. The bookies won't be overjoyed, either.

But don't bet against Channel 4 finding a way to serve some potentially very lucrative minority interests.

■ PUFFS of white smoke are finally emerging from Emap Metro, which is gearing up for its largest magazine launch. About £5 million has gone into "Project J", a national listing magazine which has been a year in gestation. I hear it will be a 120-page weekly, pitched at being a *Radio Times* for the under-40s with TV and entertainment listings. But what will be the name? The current working title is *Pulp*, which is unpopular with the troops. They suggest that it has been called Project J for so long it might as well stay.

■ *I HEAR that Ceefax*, the trusty BBC service of 25 years, is about to be shorn of its name. It's being rechristened BBC Digital Text — how that limps off the tongue — as part of the digital revamp.

■ THE rival ITV service, Teletext, is demonstrating its sleek new digital look: the only problem, no one can receive it at home. OnDigital's first boxes were rushed to the shops for Christmas before the Teletext software was ready, says Graham Lovelace, its editor. Nor will digital teletext be on SkyDigital for the foreseeable future — the systems are incompatible.

And a word of advice for sports addicts weighing up which system to sign up to: be aware that Test cricket this winter is on Sky Sports 2, one of the premium channels which is not part of the OnDigital package.

■ MURRAY GOLD'S brass band music for the BBC1 TV series *Vanity Fair*, with its discordant energy, has become the media talking point, because it is so unlike the tinkling melodies of previous costume dramas. "The BBC was quite fearless about it," says Gold. I caught up with the former Cambridge *Footlights* musical director at his Hampstead pad, where he was composing the music for the last episode of *Vanity Fair*. Gold, 29, says he is being offered lots more work.

Now he has formed the Vanity Fair Band, made of 20 musicians with himself on piano. "We said from the start we didn't want to sound like session musicians." After *Vanity Fair* ends, the band continues.

■ AS A senior BBC News executive, *Bob Wheaton's craggy* good looks won him the off-screen devotion of several of his protégés, most famously Jill Dando. Now self-employed, he has won a contract to search for new BBC talent. More blonde presenters? One male journalist already approached says: "BBC News recognised his skills and is relying on him to find more interesting reporters and correspondents." Especially for a relaunched *Six O' Clock News*.

The present ones are deemed unexciting, though they are often simply so harassed serving the different outlets that they forget to comb their hair. Wheaton is going to search regional TV, Sky, media schools and universities for new talent.

■ DR STEPHEN COLEMAN, the director of studies for the Hansard Society, pressed Sir John Birt about the BBC's lofty ambitions to harness the Internet and e-mail to involve viewers in big public debates, when he spoke at the Voice of the Listeners' and Viewers' Conference on Wednesday. As Coleman observed, the BBC's online interactive sites are hardly cause for optimism: one is devoted to cookery tips, the other to soaps. But don't worry. Sir John promised "a new set of community interest sites. We'll do this next."

Coleman was unimpressed. He says current plans include inviting viewers to suggest alternative endings for soaps.

■ THE *Evening Standard* has concluded that the departure of Isabel Hilton from Radio 4's flagship *The World Tonight* was down to the men in grey suits. Not so. The veteran presenter was moved on by two female executives, the job-sharing Prue Keely and Jenni Russell, who are joint editors of the programme. Women in grey suits, more like.

media times

Should Rosie take the rap?

An internal inquiry by Rosie Boycott at the Express, after a controversial story about Peter Mandelson, has raised accusations of a witch-hunt and political interference — and put a fellow editor's job on the line

Editors are always the last to know when they are being fired but only rarely do they discover from the columns of *The Spectator* that their job is in danger. That was the destablising experience yesterday of Amanda Platell, Editor of *The Express on Sunday*, who discovered from *The Spectator* that her job had been offered this week to Sarah Sands, Deputy Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, who had turned it down.

The approach to Sands suggests that the management of Express Newspapers have decided to make Platell the scapegoat for the publication of a story in *The Express on Sunday* three weeks ago about a friendship between the Cabinet minister Peter Mandelson and a Brazilian student, Reinaldo Avila da Silva, which appeared at the end of a week in which Mandelson had been outed by Matthew Parris as a homosexual.

Mandelson, who prefers not to discuss his sexuality, was outraged by this intrusion into his private life in a story that was full of innuendo and made his displeasure known, especially to Rosie Boycott, Editor-in-Chief of *The Express* and *The Express on Sunday*. She initiated an internal inquiry by one of her most senior colleagues, Managing Editor Lindsay Cook, which has established to her own satisfaction that she was misled when she sanctioned the publication of the Mandelson story.

Yet the inquiry has been so controversial that staff on the Sunday paper say that Platell is now the subject of a witch-hunt aimed at finding a scapegoat to placate Mandelson. She is being "shafted", they say, and hung out to dry in an office that now has a McCarthyite atmosphere.

The Mandelson saga started on the Saturday before the story was published when he first learnt that *The Express* was pursuing a story about his friendship with da Silva, who reputedly also knew Howell James, who was John Major's political secretary.

He contacted Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, and Lord Wakeham, the chairman. Boycott, who had initially been "thrilled" about the story, was warned about Mandelson's anxieties. On her instruction, Cook rang the office to investigate how the story had been obtained. It had been proposed by Andrew Pierce, Associate Editor, and da Silva had been traced in Tokyo by John Chapman, an *Express* investigative reporter who was accompanied by an English interpreter. Cook asked two main questions: had Chapman identified himself and had da Silva willingly posed for the photographer? Someone at the office gave the answer yes to both.

Meanwhile, Clive Hollick, the *Express* proprietor and Labour life peer, had made four calls to the *Express* newsdesk and Mandelson had delivered a handwritten note to Boycott, who is a neighbour. On the basis that da Silva had talked willingly and the story obtained honestly, Boycott decided that the story should be published, but insisted that it was read to Mandelson, who was to have the final say on what appeared. Substantial cuts were made.

Boycott instructed that the story should be placed inside the paper and that a photograph of da Silva should not be published on the front page. It appeared on page 7 under the headline "Brazilian student who is Mandelson's close friend" — but was also sold across the top of the front page in inch-high type as "Peter's friend".

The role of Mandelson, who represented the Government in Brazil in July and who was due to go again this month until he pulled out yesterday, is arousing controversy, with accusations that he is seeking to interfere in the editorial management of the paper and that it is he who is seeking a scapegoat.

It is that question — of how the story was obtained — that has been the subject of the internal *Express* inquiry. Cook established that Chapman did not identify himself as an *Express* reporter when he invited da Silva for a drink but only after they got to a hotel. Da Silva had said he did not want to talk about Mandelson without talking to him first. Da Silva had also refused to pose for a photograph. One shot had been taken in which he had raised his hand to obscure his face. Yet the inquiry discovered that his hand had been airbrushed out of the picture that appeared in the paper — and that the following week the photograph had disappeared from the office.

Rosie Boycott has found herself under pressure since *The Express on Sunday* published its Mandelson story. Her inquiry has simply fanned the flames

Boycott has concluded that she did not get honest answers to her questions and that the *Express on Sunday* report was unethical. Platell was not returning calls yesterday but that version of what happened in Tokyo is disputed by Platell's own staff. They say that da Silva stayed drinking with Chapman, who was with his interpreter, for 30 to 40 minutes after he had revealed he was from the *Express*. That surely refutes any suggestion that he was deceived, they say. He enjoyed the hospitality of the *Express* with no complaint.

Given Mandelson's distaste for any discussion of his sexuality or private life, it also unlikely that he is seeking a scapegoat. The sacking of an editor in an attempt to appease him would only make him the subject of still more controversy. There are also serious questions about the method used by Boycott to investigate how the Mandelson story was obtained. With an editor's reputation at stake, an independent Ombudsman would have been a better solution than a senior colleague who was unlikely to return with a report that did not satisfy her editor.

Also at stake at the *Express* is the question of the responsibility of editors for what appears in their papers, especially if they are editor-in-chief of a seven-day operation. Every day editors delegate hundreds of decisions to executives and expect to take the rap if those decisions are wrong. As editors get the glory, so they get the blame. Since Boycott sanctioned the Mandelson story, ought she not to take the rap rather than seeking to spread the blame?

In search of the Tory Campbell

Hague needs a tough press and PR chief. No takers yet, says **Chris Buckland**

William Hague is going cold on the idea that he needs a personal image makeover. Hardly surprising, as he has just invested in a fresh wardrobe and has neither the cash nor the inclination to splash out on another range of trendy suits.

The Conservative leader has no doubt, however, that his party is badly in need of a brighter image if it is ever to start making inroads into Labour's stubbornly gargantuan lead in the opinion polls.

But the hunt for a man, or woman, to add sparkle to the Opposition's PR has so far proved a mission impossible for Hague and his senior apparatchiks, as they cast their net among senior journalists in an anempt to land a Tory miracle worker.

The Central Office hierarchy is seeking an answer to Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's confidant and chief press secretary. Unfortunately for them, Campbell, ruthlessly professional and dedicated to the cause, is from a rare breed. When Tony Blair asked his friend to take on the job of transforming him into the occupant of No 10, he knew he was dealing not with a political journalist but with a journalist polidcian who had dedicated most of his adult life to propagandising for Labour.

The shortlist for Campbell's mirror image was drawn up by Archie Norman, the Tory chief executive. And it was very short indeed. The former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, Andrew Neil, was barely worth approaching, having bigger fish to fry with his television career and the expanding newspaper interests of the reclusive Barclay twins.

Trevor Kavanagh, the respected political editor of *The Sun*, could be forgiven for believing that he already had a job which was more rewarding — and more influential. On the several occasions when he was sounded out, he left senior Tories in no doubt about that.

This left Jonathan Holborow, the former Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, who recently received a reputed £900,000 payoff. He was approached by Norman and expressed interest in helping out his friend William Hague by taking on the post of director of communicadons, if the price was right.

Inidally money was no object, with the Conservatives' biggest backer, the financier Michael Ashcroft, said to be willing to pay over £150,000 a year for the right person — much more than Campbell's £91,000. Yet, strangely, after Holborow and Hague had met to discuss the job, Norman began mendoning "money problems".

So, last Wednesday, as members of the Central Office press department stood nervously by their desks, awaiting the announcement of a new boss, the whole deal crumbled. Accordiog to the official line, it was "by mutual agreement".

Then it became known that Hague's personal press secretary, 30-year-old Gregor Mackay — who days earlier was being portrayed as the main casualty of any changes — would be taking a broader role, overseeing the whole communications re-knit. Fresh recruits will also be sought to patrol the press corps in Parliament, to staff a Labour-style "rapid rebuttals unit" and to spice up the regions.

But what went wrong with the masterplan to appoint Holborow? His opponents in Central Office claim that he lacks the temperament for the job and that, at 55, he is too old. One of the new guard of Tory MPs explained: "Unlike Campbell, he is not known among polidcal journalists. He was not noticeably political as an editor and did not make a habit of appearing on TV or on the radio."

Holborow supporters, however, say that he is still in negotiations with Hague, discussing ways in which he can help the Tories to regain the support of Middle England, the very people whom *The Mail on Sunday* and its sister daily paper claim to represent.

They also allege that the Tory communicadons department is currently "a bit of a playpen" whose occupants fear a "big hitter" such as Holborow, with his tough style.

Whichever version is closer to the truth, there is no doubt that the Tories have failed in their attempt to find an answer to Campbell, a man whom they regard with almost mystical awe. But then, perhaps they have their priorities wrong. There are growing complaints in the party that policies are needed first. As one former Cabinet minister said: "The product should be sorted out before we start employing a high-pressure salesman."

Alastair Campbell: ruthless and utterly dedicated to the party cause

Big switch-off hits TV news

■ WITH the fate of *News at Ten*'s sealed, research for **Broadcast** shows a ratings crisis for all television news. Audiences for the main evening BBC and ITV bulletins have dropped by 11 per cent this autumn, compared with last year, while ITN's early evening news was down by 13 per cent. *News at Ten*, with 5.4 million viewers, is still ahead of the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, with five million.

■ A NEW magazine for teenage boys has been removed from the shelves of Sainsbury and Asda, report **Marketing** and **Marketing Week**. *Front*, aimed at youths from 16 to 18, is published by Cabal, the new publishing house headed by former magazine editor Sally O'Sullivan. Last month's issue had pictures of topless women and an article on pornography. Sainsbury reported hundreds of complaints and an Asda spokeswoman said the content was "rather less than appropriate". Neither chain will stock the second issue, even though Cabal says it has been toned down.

TRADE WEST

■ WAR is about to break out in the formerly staid world of legal publishing. **Press Gazette** reports that the former Editor and publisher of *The Lawyer* have quit to launch a rival magazine, *Legal Week*, and have taken nine staff from *The Lawyer* with them. *Legal Week* will be published by a new company, Global and Professional Media, 51 per cent owned by its staff.

■ THE Ministry of Sound, the nightclub and marketing company, and British American Tobacco are close to striking a deal. **Marketing** says the two would join forces to promote BAT cigarette brands in Europe and Asia, especially China and Russia. With the European Union likely to introduce more restraints on cigarette promotion, Eastern Europe and Asia are their biggest potential growth areas. These are also the countries where the Ministry of Sound's brand of music is growing in popularity.

■ THERE is wide coverage of forthcoming changes at *The Observer* following the August appointment of Roger Alton as the Editor. Three new tabloid sections are to be introduced on January 3, covering travel, personal finance, and television and film. **Media Week** says the moves are "aimed at arresting sliding circulation figures". In the six months ended last October, sales were 11.5 per cent down on the previous year's figures and now barely top 400,000. Market share is down from 15.3 to 13.5 per cent.

■ THIS week's launch of ONdigital, the terrestrial digital television service, was bedevilled by a shortage of set-top boxes, **Media Week** reports. Although the company said there were tens of thousands of boxes available in the shops, it has admitted that there are unlikely to be enough to meet the pre-Christmas demand. Channel 5, which was originally to have been on the ONdigital menu, is not yet available because negodadons have not been wrapped up.

Campaign reports that although 37 per cent of people had seen advertisements for ONdigital before the service launched, only one in ten knew could say what it was. When Sky Digital launched a few weeks ago 41 per cent of people had understood the message.

■ THE last word in market research is reported by **Marketing**. It involves researchers living with a family for several days to record their every move on video and thus "gaining unique insights into consumer behaviour". The researchers discover not just what goods people buy, but how they use them in the home. To make up for the intrusion, families who agree to such close scrutiny will be paid £100 a day.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

A new crop of Panses

WHEN markeong people have nothing better to do they identify new tribes, complete with their own catchy acronyms. *Ray Snoddy writes.*

One of the most influential women in British advertising, Christine Walker, enlivened the Marketing Society's annual conference this week with a freshly minted batch.

So prepare to welcome the Panses (politically active and not seeking employment), the Sinbads (single income, no boyfriend, absolutely desperate), the Yappies (young affluent parents) and, last but not least, the Sitcoms (single income, two children and oppressive mortgage).

Ms Walker, the managing partner in Walker Media, which is backed by M & C Saatchi, also points a finger at the Adultescents, the readers of men's magazines such as *Loaded* who are immersed in youth culture "but should know better".

Then there are the Nipples (New Irish professionals living in London) not to mention the Puppies (Punjabi upwardly mobile professionals). No wonder, Ms Walker points out, that the Government is planning to introduce 17 classifications in time for the next census to replace the current ABC1/C2DE social classifications.

Margaret Thatcher may have once said that there was no such thing as society — referring to the erosion of traditional communities and the growth of individualism. — but, according to Ms Walker, things have moved on since then.

Nowadays we are not so much all individuals as minorities, and even radical minorides.

"They are our new communities and they are instantly recognisable in the media," Ms Walker says.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

ROBIN TAYLOR

The swimsuit parade is out, but we will see the Miss World entrants frolicking in the sand and revealing a flavour of their inner selves in prerecorded, fast-cut vignettes set to music

'Horny, not corny or porny'

Channel 5 is relaunching Miss World — but will the revamp live up to its promises? **Rajan Datar** reports

Miss Brazil is clearly ill at ease. Perched on a chair under the midday sun in the Seychelles, she knows that this is her chance to project her personality to a global audience of hundreds of millions. Encircling her are make-up artists, camera crews, producers, fixers and chaperones. She has been told to be natural, spontaneous, individual.

Someone toys with her hair, another urges her to relax more, perhaps lose the forced smile. The camera rolls again and the director lobs her an easy question: what does she enjoy doing when she goes to the beach? She answers in Portuguese and the translation comes back: she likes to ride inflatable, motorised bananas.

There's a stunned silence as the entourage gawp at each other. Does she really mean that? They start again.

Welcome to the revamped Miss World, 1998-style. Mocked, reviled and dismissed in some parts of the world — particularly in Britain — it has been stung into action. It is being dragged into the modern world and, on a promise that the contestants will be portrayed as confident, streetwise young women, Channel 5 has risked its reputation and money by returning it to UK terrestrial TV after a ten-year absence.

Channel 5 will not disclose exactly how much it has forked out for exclusive rights. Adam Perry, the head of special events, does admit, though, that lumped in with its marketing and promotions budget, it stands as one of its most expensive projects ever. "I thought what a great time to do Miss World! It struck me that there's a generation that hasn't seen Miss World yet who have grown up with the Lad-Mag phenomenon, and the cult of the supermodel, which have filled the vacuum."

The channel is making sure it gets full mileage, though, with a preview show the night before the contest, then the show itself, broadcast next Thursday, and, three days later, a highlights programme.

According to Perry, any criticism of the channel digging up old ideas to make up for a paucity of imagination is misplaced. "It fits in our schedule because it's a mainstream event. We are not a niche broadcaster — we want to compete with BBC 1 and ITV. Our force is putting a bit of a spin on popular entertainment, as we do with, say, Melinda Messenger."

Ms Messenger will be absent from this year's show — it appears that she might be too raunchy even for the updated Miss World. In a balancing act, designed not to alienate traditional viewers, the emphasis is on modernisation rather than liberalisation. "Horny, but not corny or porny," is the charming, unofficial mantra being bandied around the 150-strong, mainly British, production team, hired by Initial, the renowned organisers of live TV spectacles.

According to Julie Clive, the show's first female producer, revolution cannot be achieved overnight. "Although expectations are fantastically high," she points out, "it has to be remembered that this event has run for 47 years and we can't change everything. It's like turning a huge steamer around in the middle of an ocean."

There are some significant changes to the format this year. Out goes the demeaning swimsuit and stilettos parade. Also gone is the national costumes sequence. And the demeaning interviews in broken English have been removed too. Instead, the contestants reveal a flavour of their inner selves in prerecorded, fast-cut vignettes set to dance music.

Ronan Keating of Boyzone will be compere. "He's very accessible to a lot of people and he's not going to put a vicious spin on it," says Julie Clive. "This is not Terry Wogan and the *Eurovision Song Contest* revisited." So there will be no throwback to the heady days of 1974 when a frustrated Michael Aspel, in his last appearance as presenter, asked contestants what they thought of world inflation.

The biggest change, however, will be in tone rather than content. The term most commonly bandied around is that the show will be "MTV-ised". Many of the production team have worked for the cable music station and the co-presenter, Eden, is a regular on MTV. Hamilton is keen to play down the connection. "I think saying it's been 'MTV-ised' is selling it short. MTV gives a glamorous overview but not necessarily any insight. We have to draw out the differences between the women. The best parallel I would draw is *Baywatch*. There's a fine line between sleazy voyeurism and light entertainment. We're shooting the women on the beach enjoying themselves."

Hamilton's instructions have been to catch the women on camera when they are at their most spontaneous. "We chose eight beach activities, from volleyball to swimming. After five minutes the girls forget the cameras are rolling."

To understand the task facing Hamilton and Clive you have to appreciate the looming shadow of the ancient regime of Miss World. This includes the persisting influence of the Morley family, who invented the competition in 1951, and still own the licence. Although the project is essentially sub-let to a Seychelles Government Miss World consortium, the Morleys retain a pervasive power over the girls themselves.

Despite a united front from all involved in the Miss World 1998 project, some cracks are beginning to show. The chaperones, who act as guardians of the Morley tradition of beauty pageantry, find it hard to accommodate the "beach-babe" culture of the production team. Poor Miss Hong Kong is sent back three times to change her outfits, caught in a tug of war between the two schools.

Many of the girls, while expressing enthusiasm for the new image, are clearly unsure how to act. They know that saying they want to work with small children and animals is naff, but what do you say instead?

The most popular line is that beauty is within as much as without. Miss Malaysia, an articulate actress with a perfect Australian accent, explained that she wanted people to see that Miss World can be a forum for "intelligent developed women".

"When I watch the old Miss World shows I cringe," she says. "You can't just stick pretty women on TV any more and hope people accept it."

But behind the scenes, a three-way tug of war is being fought between the Morleys, the production team and the Seychelles Government. Each has its own agenda.

The Morleys have fought hard to retain as much as possible of their original concept of Miss World. The Seychelles Government, which has put £1.2 million into the project, sees the contest as an excellent platform for upmarket tourism. (Initial has filmed clips around the Seychelles to insert into the live broadcast.)

Which leaves Channel 5 and the Initial production team soldiering on with their vision of a contemporary, non-exploitative celebration of femininity. And both are adamant that the criticism of Miss World as outdated, tacky and sexist will be redundant after this year's contest.

Newspapers: the client from hell

WHEN *The Independent* dumped its ad agency, Lowe Howard-Spink, this week there was surprise around town, but not too much. Eyebrows were raised only because the paper's management already had another agency lined up (Euro RSCG).

Lowe lost the account after being appointed only six months ago, and after airing a well-received cinema commercial for the first time last month. *The Independent* is the second newspaper account Lowe has won and lost in the past two years.

Newspaper owners vie with banks and retailers for the title of Britain's worst clients. This is not necessarily a criticism of the ads produced (though they are often dreadful) but of the truculent nature of these reluctant advertisers. I generalise, but editors are more often than not a nightmare to deal with (the late Sir David English being an exception). Starting from a position of having no respect for what advertising agencies do, they believe that they can write most of the ads better themselves. After all, they're in the creative writing business, aren't they?

Given that they produce an entire newspaper every day, they fail to understand ad agency deadlines. So they set ridiculous targets, briefing agencies late on Friday for an ad to be ready by the next afternoon. They become frustrated when the deadlines aren't met, or when they are presented with run-of-the-mill ideas.

Some editors resent having to use advertising at all, clinging to the naive belief that they can increase sales through the excellence of their journalists alone. When agencies take their high-mindedness at face value, and propose long-term branding campaigns promoting the paper's core values, the editors feel the need to puff the latest sex, celebrity and royalty scandal.

So while agencies are constantly trying to sell campaigns such as the current *Guardian* one, "for free thinkers everywhere", the publishers demand a 30-second spot for less than £50,000 to promote their new Diana tea-towels. The smarter ones, such as Associated Newspapers, know that promotions such as "lucky wallets" can put on more sales for *The Mail on Sunday* than even the Diana fallback.

Newspaper clients are notorious bullies, taking out their internal pressures on those nearest to them. In fact News International, which owns *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, and News Group Newspapers (*The Sun* and *News of the World*) were lumped together as the "client from hell". Four years ago, when the then tiny Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe won the *Times* account, the reaction among other agencies was a certain sympathy.

That has turned to envy as *The Times* has become the most consistently advertised newspaper and one of the three (together with *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*) highest spending of the past year. Make no mistake, however; these papers' agencies sweat for their money, making 50 or so commercials a year and hundreds of press ads.

Ad agencies are not angels. The demands of newspaper clients expose their often overbureaucratic and hierarchical working methods. They can be guilty of being meeting-obsessed, and insisting on a £6,000-a-day photographer. The most frequent charge thrown in their faces by the newspaper publishers is that they are arrogant.

So what went wrong with *The Independent*'s relationship with Lowe? The insinuation is that *The Indie* was unhappy with the lack of support advertising (radio and posters in particular) for the cinema ad. The agency counters that it has the work ready to run and was the scapegoat for the paper's lack of direction. The truth is that the relationship broke down for many of the reasons explained in the generalisation above.

So why do agencies want newspaper accounts? It's not because they are particularly good payers. But they are more interesting and challenging than many other products. The constant pressure keeps agencies humming: they feel at the centre of events. Simply put: the glamour, the glamour.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign.

THE LATEST newspaper circulation figures, released by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) this week, saw two new nationals join the fray.

Sunday Business, owned by the Barclay brothers, and *Sport First* (Parliamentary Communications) were included in the figures for the first time in October. Both fell short of the targets set by their publishers before launch.

Considering *Sport First*'s rocky ride since, its figure of 67,000 was described by Brian King, the paper's advertising accounts director, as "a remarkable achievement".

Launched as a Sunday broadsheet in March, the paper restructured to become a tabloid at the start of the football season. "We are still planning to expand the title slowly," says King. "And we're hoping for a circulation of about 100,000."

Sunday Business has not found life plain sailing either. The paper was relaunched under the editorship of Jeff Randall in February after its previous stakeholder, Group 2000, went into receivership.

The newspaper sold an average of around 50,000 copies a week in October, still down on its launch target of 80,000.

● *MediaTel's online media information is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)*

TWO NEW PAPERS JOIN THE FRAY

	Oct 98	Change on previous year	
Daily Mail	2,343,494	123,285	5.6
Daily Star	650,406	-80,336	-11
Daily Telegraph	1,062,853	-42,784	-3.9
Express	1,134,719	-88,654	-7.2
Express On Sunday	1,046,385	-115,056	-9.9
Financial Times	361,699	38,051	11.8
Guardian	393,491	-18,348	-4.5
Independent	222,188	-43,132	-16.3
Ind. On Sunday	254,733	-31,554	-11
Mail On Sunday	2,278,506	85,101	3.9
Mirror	2,351,815	-5,213	-0.2
News Of The World	4,242,893	-190,725	-4.3
Observer	400,608	-52,159	-11.5
Sport First	67,106	n/a	n/a
Sun	3,698,300	-121,674	-3.2
Sunday Business	50,151	n/a	n/a
Sunday Mirror	2,006,776	-281,137	-12.3
Sunday People	1,734,032	-178,341	-9.3
Sunday Times	1,346,783	9,060	0.7
Times	759,507	-16,239	-2.1
Total	26,406,255	-1,009,855	-3.3

In search of the naked truth

Kira Phillips had to work in the nude for a Channel 4 documentary

Last year I received a phone call from a man I'd never met. He asked me to meet him then travel to a secluded spot in the country and take off my clothes. In fact, he asked me to spend the best part of three months without clothes, along with him and his male colleagues. Naturally, he would pay me.

What sounds like a rather tawdry arrangement was the beginning of the most remarkable — and strange — period of my life. The man making this bizarre overture was the documentary-maker Sam Anthony; his project was a film about naturism in Britain. He wanted me as assistant producer. I accepted.

Three days later the two of us were sitting in a camper van in woodlands near Bournemouth — on a recce, aiming to interview one of Britain's foremost naturists. We were to meet him in his naturist camp, the Bournemouth and District Outdoor Club. Sam and I had felt from the outset that we should conduct all interviews naked and so win the trust of our interviewees. It was time to see if we had the guts to go through with it.

We giggled a bit but found it wasn't as bad as we had thought. Inside the naturist camp, our nakedness was entirely unremarkable to everyone. It was not until we met our host and his wife that we began to feel self-conscious. One of the most vociferous champions of naturism in Britain had decided that he would wear his clothes that day.

We sat down to what was a very uncomfortable lunch: being naked in front of other naked people is no big deal — everyone is equally vulnerable. But when your companions are clothed, the emphasis on your own nudity is marked. It was a nightmare. This is why wearing clothes, even temporarily, in some naturist camps is actively discouraged.

On the whole, Sam and I were not enormously fussed about having to take off our clothes. My parents occasionally visited nudist camps and took me with them, and Sam was not particularly body-conscious. When we first took the crew down to start shooting, our soundman Bob showed an almost peculiar willingness to get his kit off. By a complete coincidence, it turned out he had been a naturist for 25 years.

Our cameraman Richard turned out to be a different story. He was extremely nervous about being naked in public, and totally unsure of what to expect. When Sam and I first casually strolled over to him, chatting and making no reference to our nakedness, he looked at us with unadulterated horror.

When finally persuaded to take everything off, he spent the first hour wandering about with his camera covering his nether regions, quite literally shooting from the hip. Ultimately, we had to persuade him to abandon this practice since a documentary about naturists filmed at below-waist level might be considered dubious.

One of the things that struck me about naturism was the randomness with which the people we filmed approached nudity. They would expose themselves to the elements when clothes would have been a positive boon, yet at other times dress up for no apparent reason, on quite warm days.

There is one occasion I will never forget. We were trying to persuade a nudist camp in Dorset to allow us to film inside. We did this by wandering around, trying to make people feel comfortable with us being there. We chatted to one man who was doing welding work on his car radiator. To say he showed a disregard for protective equipment would be an understatement.

We watched dumbfounded as a spark flew from the radiator into his pubic hair, which to our horror burst into flames. The unfortunate man must have been glad that the cameras were not rolling.

● Witness: Acting Natural *is on Channel 4 on Monday at 9pm.*

CHANNEL 4

When in Rome: the film crew decided to adopt the naturist approach to make their interviewees feel more comfortable

media times

Human face of advertising

'When in doubt, be nice,' Peter Mead tells **Raymond Snoddy**

the media interview

When Abbott Mead Vickers-BBDO became Britain's largest advertising and marketing group two years ago its chairman, Peter Mead, celebrated in a most peculiar way. He bought some sandwiches and ate them in Berkeley Square, Central London, opposite the offices of his rival, J. Walter Thompson.

"It was just for me," says Mead, a boy from Peckham, South London, who 40 years earlier had been offered a job in JWT's dispatch department. It had been explained to him that the agency had a canteen but on his wages he wouldn't be able to afford to use it. The park in the square opposite was suggested as an alternative.

"I found it marginally patronising and accepted a job at another agency, SH Benson, instead," says Mead, who now presides over a company with a reputation for treating its employees well, while also creating campaigns such as BT's It's Good To Talk.

AMV and BBDO merged in the UK in 1991 and BBDO's international holding company acquired 27 per cent of Abbott Mead Vickers. The group, whose clients include Volvo, the RSPCA, Sainsbury, Mars and Guinness, famously refused to lay off staff during the recession in the early 1990s, unlike many other agencies. The strategy worked, says Mead. Profits held throughout, and rocketed upwards when the recession ended.

Barring a complete collapse of the world economy, the "No Redundancy" policy will remain in place this time, too. But as Mead says: "If I lived in a media-free environment, I'd hardly know there was going to be a recession. You can hardly get a seat in a restaurant and none of our clients is cutting budgets."

It is easier to promise no job losses this time because AMV-BBDO is a more broadly based communications company; only 40 per cent of its income comes from advertising.

Mead is talking in his Marylebone office, which is dominated by a giant jukebox and extensive fish tanks, which he deems no more expensive than conventional art, and a lot more fun. The genial, burly figure, who smokes too much for his own good and seems untroubled by the need to be politically correct, is diffident as he tries to justify the policy of behaving well that led AMV to refuse all work in South Africa pre-Mandela and to turn down tobacco companies as clients.

"One of the great joys of trying to behave properly as an organisation, and we always have, is that it is commercially sensible as well. You get the most out of people by capturing an unfair share of their heads and hearts. If you create a feeling of security and people like the place, they work in a way you wouldn't believe possible."

DES JENSON

Peter Mead: "Behaving properly as an organisation is commercially sensible"

His late father was a window cleaner and as he talks, almost on cue, a window cleaner's cradle inches past the multimillionaire's window just as it begins to rain.

Mead, who describes himself as "the bagman" at the agency in contrast to David Abbott, the creative force who has just retired, says he is grateful to his father for instilling a belief that anything is possible. He is slightly less grateful for being taken as a child to Millwall Football Club rather than Spurs or Arsenal. The continuing lifelong obsession has probably cost him £3 million. He was chairman of Millwall and a significant shareholder when it became the first club to be top of the first division in December and relegated at the end of the season.

Although it was one of the worst experiences of his life, Mead is still Millwall's deputy chairman and his son Billy is on the playing staff.

Mead, 58, describes himself as a media dinosaur who has tried to surf the Internet and failed, though naturally the group has bought itself an Internet company as part of its expansion into communications and publishing. He is sceptical of developments that are driven by technology rather than consumer demand and points to those who forecast that by now cable would be the dominant medium. "Only ten years ago people were telling me you won't have books any more, everything will be CD-Roms, and newspapers will be dead by the end of the century," he says.

"Occasionally people confuse activity with progress. We have voicemail, which I'm removing because I think it is deeply counter-productive for most of the company. People like to talk to people, not electronic message machines."

He believes it is far too early to predict how digital television is going to perform in the UK other than to say it will take years of hard work and require strong financial nerves to make it take off.

Unlike many advertising industry executives Mead does not want to see ads on the BBC: "It's nice to have something that is independent, which is truly non-commercial in the best sense of the word."

David Abbott has retired to do other things but Mead intends to stay on until his contract runs out in 2001. He will probably sign another if his colleagues don't think he is "dribbling too much". He says he will retire the day he no longer gets goosepimples just talking about the business he clearly loves. He has only one unfulfilled ambition: "I'd like to write a management book to persuade more people that 'when in doubt, be nice' is a commercial as well as a human view."

Enough to put me in a spin

■ I LOATHE the word "spin" being used to describe public relations. It suggests to me something flimsy and made up, a far cry from "telling the truth persuasively" that the PR textbooks describe and that I and thousands of professionals try to put into practice. The term spin was coined during the 1980s in American politics and really denotes the culture of the soundbite rather than the "planned and sustained effort to establish mutual understanding and goodwill between an organisation and its publics" as defined by the IPR (Institute of Public Relations).

In my view spin, born and bred in politics, is only a distant cousin of PR. So imagine my dismay when I browsed the Interoet and noticed a new product on the market for PR professionals — a software package containing the basic tools we use and often out-source to expensive specialist companies: production of mailing labels and lists, and media monitoring. All very efficient. Great.

But guess what it is called? SpinControl, by SpinWare.

■ THE term "all publicity is good publicity" is, in my book, even more of a no-brainer than the S-word. The idea that notoriety is better than anonymity — so that even a scandal is good for the ratings — is almost an accepted wisdom, but isn't true. One person's good publicity is another's nightmare. For politicians, and anyone with a "serious" image to project, good PR is about managing and protecting reputation, which is not the same as publicity at all costs.

Being royal must be even worse than being in politics these days, as the requirement to cultivate an image which is both serious and frivolous intensifies.

PR advice has been drafted in left, right and centre to the Royal Family lately, and they finally look as if they are controlling the agenda some of the time, rather than always reacting to the latest report (although Charles's response to the ITV documentary claiming he favoured the Queen's abdication was, to my mind, heavy-handed and ensured that the programme got maximum advance attention).

Royal PR appointments, such as that of Simon Lewis, communications secretary at Buckingham Palace, are interesting not just because of their high calibre but because they are on secondment from the corporate world.

■ THE voluntary sector could also benefit more from high-flyers in PR being seconded to them. Perhaps Alison Clarke, the new president-elect of the Institute of Public Relations, can urge companies and consultancies to start giving their expertise regularly.

Since Princes William and Harry plugged the sportswear Kangol during their Canadian trip in March (when they wore the company's caps backwards), any kind of endorsement by the Princes must be top of the PR list for thousands of businesses.

If Bandai UK, producers of the Yomega X-brain yo-yo which has swept school playgrounds this autumn, could persuade the Princes to do a sponsored yo-yo for charity, this could be the best kind of publicity: good clean fun, and in aid of a good cause. Any takers?

● *Julia Hobsbawm is the founder and chairwoman of Hobsbawm Macaulay Communications*

MEDIA & MARKETING

Marketing Manager

Pfizer

Have you got the direction we're looking for?

Pfizer – background

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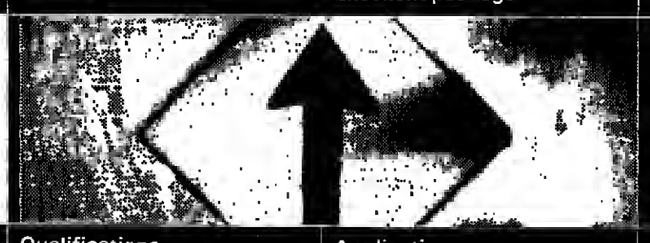

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What has made these girls the best in Britain?

Tailor-made target-setting boosts pupil performance. Report by **Maureen Ribbins** and **Dru James**

Charting success: Ruth Butler and Paula Hendriks, 15, at a personal social education session in Wolverhampton

This summer, one year group at Wolverhampton Girls' High School achieved the school's highest GCSE rate at A* and A grades. The girls passed 80 per cent of their subjects with A* and A passes — the best pass rate in a British state school. Wolverhampton is a selective school which is expected to do well in next month's league tables. How has it achieved this?

"We all get on very well together in our year and we helped each other to get to the top," wrote one pupil. "We revised together and encouraged each other and therefore worked well and felt confident going into exams."

Her words sum up the philosophy of a personal review scheme which has since been adopted by a second school, Woldingham, an independent Roman Catholic girls' boarding school in Surrey.

Over the past few years, staff have ensured that each girl at Wolverhampton has her own system of target-setting and review. This is now paying dividends in terms of greater work-satisfaction and better results. The method is similar to the best appraisal techniques used in industry, and to the profile and self-report systems that are encouraged at other state schools.

At Wolverhampton we have started the process with Year 7 — girls in their first year — and, unlike some schools, we involve senior management in the process.

When each girl arrives at the school, she is given a review folder, which she will keep throughout her school life, helping her to compare progress from year to year and to build a profile of her own aspirations and achievements.

Reports are given twice a year at Wolverhampton, and at the end of every term at Woldingham. Form teachers talk through reports with each pupil in a review lasting up to 20 minutes.

The pupil, in consultation with the tutor, fills in a review sheet in as much detail as possible. She must include her strengths and weaknesses in each subject, how she feels about her report, and the reaction of her family. Each pupil is asked to examine what motivates her to do well, and what prevents her from achieving her best. Like a thorough health check, this overhaul also covers extracurricular activities, including the amount of time the girl spends on homework, watching TV and other leisure pursuits, including reading. She is asked to consider possible career choices — even if she is only in Year 9 (aged 13). The tutor asks each pupil to list five realistic targets she would like to meet by certain dates; the end of term and the end of the year. These may concern work, attitude, behaviour, organisation, or a combination of these.

> 'The key is to create a pupil-staff dialogue'

The next stage involves a senior member of staff, who conducts another review, concentrating on the targets the pupil has set for herself. The system is time-consuming: whole days are set aside for these yearly reviews. But the results prove their value. Wolverhampton High pupils are now more aware of how to analyse their work and how to set specific personal targets.

Until we consulted them, we had not realised how much of a team effort this would be. As one pupil commented: "We all wanted to succeed. We knew we were a year of high achievers and we were proud of this. We didn't want to fail."

Of course, there is a risk of stress, but part of our PSE (personal and social education) curriculum is devoted to helping pupils to deal with undue pressure. This includes an efficient time-management programme. We have sessions on relaxation, including yoga, aromatherapy and t'ai chi.

Staff are supportive. They tell us how much the responsibility for learning has been taken on by the pupils: they have become much more independent and can be relied on to carry out suggestions for developing their learning techniques. This enhances trusting relationships between staff and pupils.

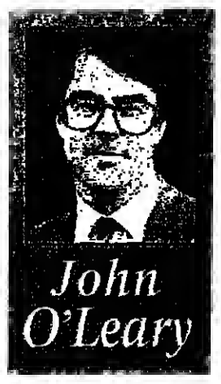
Now that the personal review system is beginning at Woldingham, we shall be able to judge how well it works in a boarding environment, with pupils who have a wider range of abilities. Here, there will be even more time to devote to girls who might struggle in particular areas. One of the strengths of a good review is early diagnosis of any problems that might hinder future performance.

The most important aspect of the review system — and perhaps the key to its success — is the dialogue it creates between pupils and staff. This should lead pupils to identify areas in which they are strong, to discover their skills and to apply them to subjects where they are weaker.

This will enhance their self-esteem, and increase the self-confidence they need to succeed.

● *Dru James is Headmistress of Wolverhampton Girls' High School and Maureen Ribbins is Headmistress of Woldingham.*

The grammar schools will not go quietly



Selection has been the Achilles' heel of the Labour education programme since well before the general election. While other policies have been a model of clarity, whatever criticism there may have been of their content, statements on selective education have been an object lesson in obfuscation. This week's regulations for ballots on the future of grammar schools were no exception.

The ballot provisions unleashed a veritable cyclone of hot air from both sides of the debate and will lead to costly, and no doubt bitter, campaigning, almost certainly to no effect. Grammar schools dare not admit it for fear of looking complacent, but the rules have been drawn up in such a way that very few schools will have anything to worry about.

The regulations are the latest example of the doublespeak that has characterised Labour statements on selection since opinion polls began to show that abolishing the 166 remaining grammar schools would be unpopular with the electorate. Party spokesmen have had to find reasons for giving local parents the right to abolish selection, while imposing a national veto on its extension; for encouraging the allocation of places according to aptitude for technology or modern languages, but not for all-round academic ability.

Labour was already in trouble over selection when David Blunkett invited delegates to the 1996 party conference to "read my lips: no selection under a Labour Government". What he meant to say was "no more selection".

But the subtle difference raised expectations in the anti-grammar school lobby that the party leadership had no intention of fulfilling. Even the schools that recently introduced partial selection survived the provisions of the School Standards Act and will have to take their chance with local adjudicators.

Mr Blunkett announced before the election that he would not be distracted by a side issue from dealing with the problems affecting the majority of state schools. But selection is a topic that refuses to go away: too many members of his own party want action and too many of his opponents see it as an area of weakness and division.

Pareotal ballots seemed the ideal way to spare the Government uncomfortable decisions on the fate of grammar schools. Who could argue with a system that passed the decision to those most affected? But campaigners on both sides know that the devil is in the detail of the arrangements, and the spin-doctors have made it clear that the Government's intention is to make it as difficult as possible to call a ballot.

Where fully selective systems exist, one parent in five will have to sign a petition before a vote can be held on the future of the grammar schools. In Buckinghamshire, for example, more than 40,000 signatures must be collected.

In other areas, the electorate will be confined to schools, including many in the independent sector, that have sent at least five children to grammar school in the past three years. It is almost inconceivable that a prep school parent would vote to abolish the local grammar school: for many, the object of paying fees is to secure a grammar school place; the rest would be voting for extra competition in the independent sector.

When the Campaign for State Education held a conference to build support for the ballots, only about 200 people attended. That hardly suggests the groundswell needed to shake the foundations of schools that survived everything the last Labour government could throw at them.

Why Oxbridge does not work

Extracurricular jobs at university are still frowned on. **Lucy Hawking** reports

Sweeping changes to the funding of Oxford and Cambridge may force the universities to reconsider one of their cherished principles by allowing students to work part-time during the term. Students at Oxbridge, unlike others, are discouraged by their colleges from taking on a term-time job.

There is no official statute banning extracurricular employment, but academics consider that a job would leave students insufficient time to complete their courses because terms are only eight weeks long.

"Terms are short and intensive," says an Oxford spokesman. "It would be regrettable if students missed out on educational opportunities." However, the cost of a degree from Oxford or Cambridge could rise greatly over the next few years and all students already have to pay a means-tested tuition fee of up to £1,000 a year. Until now, they have been able to save money by living in college accommodation for a greater part of the degree course than at other universities. They pay rent only for the time they are in residence and, at about £40 a week, this puts an Oxbridge student's annual rent bill at about £1,350. A commercial property would cost a minimum of £3,000.

Oxbridge: study only

Over the next five to ten years, colleges are expected to lose a significant amount of government funding. To compensate, they are likely to raise room rates, increasing the financial pressure on students.

Many students already find it hard to make ends meet without a job. Ben Illis, a graduate of University College, Oxford, with a 2.1 in modern languages, worked part-time every term except his first, earning up to £100 a week from bar work. "Without that money I would have had no social life," he says. He also believes that for students such as himself, working in a restaurant that provided a hot meal made a big difference. Mr Illis, who kept his bar job even during finals, thinks that it did not affect his work. "I am sure I did better because I had a change of scene. But I chose not to tell the college." He believes it was unofficially accepted that students had part-time jobs.

Mr Illis coped with work and study, but other students are unsure that they could do so. A Cambridge undergraduate says: "Some tutors tell students not to work, even over the holidays, because of their academic commitments. So how could you have a term-time job?"

If rents rise sharply, universities will have to devise a way to lessen the financial burden, especially if they are to attract students from poorer backgrounds. Mark Jones Parry, welfare and graduate officer of Cambridge University Students' Union, says: "If students suffer stress because they cannot meet financial commitments, that will harm academic life."

Allowing students to work part-time seems an obvious way to increase income, but it could mean lowering academic standards. It is already a reality, however, and at least 30 universities have recruitment agencies on campus. Nationally, 40 per cent of students are thought to have part-time jobs, and the figure is expected to rise as high as 60 or 70 per cent.

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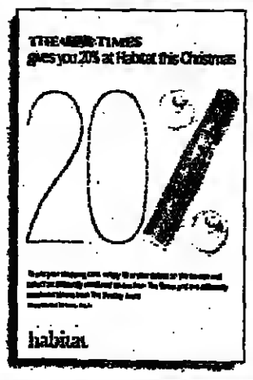

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Scots Law Report November 20 1998 Outer House

Identifying sites for environmental protection

WWF-UK Ltd and Another v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before Lord Nimmo Smith

[Judgment October 27]

In the linked processes of identifying and drawing the boundaries of sites to be afforded special environmental protection under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives, national authorities had a discretion as to where the boundaries should run, albeit the basis for their judgments had to be scientific.

In respect of those habitats or species the presence of which qualified the site for protection, the national authorities were not obliged to include within the site all such habitats or such species' territories that were contiguous or geographically linked.

Objectors to consent for a development who contended that, if the boundaries of such a site were properly drawn they would include the development site, could be barred by delay from seeking judicial review where, in making representations to the planning authority during many months of consideration of the planning application, the objectors had omitted to raise the question of whether the boundaries should properly include the development site.

In permitting development that had a potential for adverse effects upon such a site, a planning authority was not obliged to ascertain that the absence of adverse effects was guaranteed absolutely, and could lawfully grant consent on conditions, such as requiring that the possibility of such effects be monitored, and making provision for the imposition of additional controls if the possibility of adverse effects were to materialise during the operation of a development.

When consulting the public upon the steps to be taken to prevent adverse environmental effects, a planning authority was not in principle obliged to make available to the public the final versions of the proposed measures, since the act of consultation contemplated possible revision, and repeated re-consultation would render the process excessively protracted.

Lord Nimmo Smith, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, dismissing a petition for judicial review brought by WWF-UK Ltd and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds against decisions of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Highland Council, in which the Cairngorm Chairlift Company Ltd and Highlands and Islands Enterprise were called as interested parties.

Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw, QC, for the petitioners; Mr Neil Davidson, QC and Miss Lesley Shand for the secretary of state; Mr Patrick Hodge, QC and Mr Michael Howlin for Scottish Natural Heritage; Mr Michael Upton for Highland Council; Mr Roy Martin, QC and Mr Laurence Murphy for Cairngorm Chairlift Company and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

LORD NIMMO SMITH said that the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations [SI 1994 No 2716] implemented the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (OJ 1979 No L 103/1) and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (OJ 1992 No L206/7) by providing for the designation of parts of the country as special protection areas ("SPAs") and special areas of conservation ("SACs"), which were jointly referred to as "European sites".

The petitioners sought to challenge decisions of Scottish Natural Heritage and the Secretary of State for Scotland to propose boundaries for an SPA and an SAC in the Cairngorm mountains that omitted certain areas on the northern slopes of Cairn Gorm itself; and Highland Council's grant of planning permission for, and entry into a planning agreement concerning the construction of a funicular railway on those slopes.

In 1990 Scottish Heritage's predecessors had proposed that a large part of the Cairngorms, including the summit of Cairn Gorm itself, should be an SPA.

The application for planning permission for the railway had been made in August, 1994, relative to an area adjacent to but outwith the proposed SPA.

In March, 1995 the secretary of state had published Circular 6/1995 advising planning authorities for the purposes of development control to treat proposed European sites as if they had been formally designated as such.

In the same month he and Scottish Heritage had publicly proposed that a large part of the Cairngorms should form an SAC; the proposed boundary excluded both the development site and the summit of Cairn Gorm.

Over the following two years, public consultations on the planning application had been carried out, to which the petitioners had been party. Over that period Scottish Heritage, in its role as statutory consultees to the planning authority under regulation 48 of the 1994 Regulations, had maintained an objection to the planning application.

In July, 1996 Scottish Heritage had revised the proposed boundary of the SPA to exclude the summit of Cairn Gorm. After extensive negotiations, in March 1997, a planning agreement had been entered into by Highland Council, the Chairlift Co, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Heritage and the Bank of Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage had withdrawn its objection to the application and planning consent had been granted by the Council.

The grounds on which judicial review was sought related to three distinct matters:

1 Where the boundaries of the proposed European sites had been drawn;

2 The assessment of the effects of visitors using the funicular on the sites that had in fact been proposed; and

3 Public consultation upon mitigatory measures.

The boundary issue

The petitioners contended that on a proper construction of the 1994 Regulations in the light of the Directives, the boundaries of a European site should be drawn by reference to scientific criteria alone; that in consequence all contiguous or linked qualifying habitats or species had to be included; and that a member-state had on discretion in boundary delineation.

They founded upon the decisions in Case C-57/89 *Commission v Germany* ([1991] ECR I-883); Case C-355/90 *Commission v Spain* ([1993] ECR I-4221); Case C-44/95 *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte RSPB (The Times* August 2, 1996; [1996] ECR I-3085) and *Commission v Netherlands* (May 19, 1998 unreported).

His Lordship accepted that the boundaries of an SPA had to be determined by reference to ornithological criteria alone, but beyond that, detailed examination of those judgments demonstrated that they did not support the petitioners' approach.

Turning to the legislative language itself, his Lordship also rejected the submission that under either Directive the identification of sites and the delineation of boundaries were distinct steps, the former only involving an exercise of the discretion.

On the contrary, the latter was an integral part of the former. A discretion had to be exercised throughout, as much in the determination of boundaries as in other aspects of the selection of sites.

The scientific exercise that required to be undertaken did not require that all contiguous or linked qualifying habitats or species populations had to be included. The contention that Scottish Heritage and the secretary of state had erred in their approach to the proposed boundaries was therefore unfounded.

The petitioners had also drawn attention to indications that Scottish Heritage had taken account of skiing as a recreational and economic, and hence irrelevant, factor.

His Lordship, however, did not see how the existing skiing facilities at Cairn Gorm could have been ignored if the exercise were to be carried out on a properly scientific basis.

In any event, little had been said by the petitioners about why, if the boundaries had been wrongly drawn, the planning permission should be quashed.

Circular 6/1995 required the planning authority to treat a proposed European site as a classified European site, but to treat a proposed site as a classified site had necessarily to involve treating it as having its boundary as then proposed, not as it might be.

If Highland Council had considered any other boundary, the Chairlift Company could have challenged that as having regard to an irrelevant matter.

Delay

During the consideration of the planning application, neither of the petitioners had put directly to Highland Council the argument that the boundaries should have been drawn to include the development site.

On the contrary, the RSPB in particular had participated in the planning process in terms that treated the proposed European sites as excluding the development site.

Meanwhile, as the petitioners must have known, the Chairlift Company and Highlands and Islands Enterprise had been incurring expenses, in the order of 596,000, in connection with the planning process.

If the petitioners had wanted to put the boundaries in issue, and determination of the planning application to be deferred until that issue had been resolved, it was for them to have made a suitable intervention in the planning process.

The fact that they had not done so amounted to mora [delay] sufficient to bar them from seeking judicial review: see *Assets Co v Bain* ((1904) 6 F 692); *Macnaughton v Macnaughton's Trs* (1953 SC 387); *Atherton v Strathclyde Regional Council* (1995 SLT 557), *Lardner v Renfrew District Council* (1997 SC 104); *Swan v Secretary of State for Scotland* (1998 SC 479); *Caswell v Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal for England and Wales* ([1990] 2 AC 738), and *R v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Ex parte Greenpeace Ltd* (QB, October 14, 1997, unreported).

The petitioners had argued that, regardless of any such delay, Community law required the court to examine of its own motion whether the authorities of its member state had remained within the limits of their discretion, to take all general or particular measures necessary to ensure that the environmental effects of development were assessed properly, and to form its own view about where the boundaries should be drawn: Case C-72/95, *Aannemersbedrijf PK Kraaijeveld BV v Gedeputeerde Staten van Zuid-Holland* ([1996] ECR I-5403).

His Lordship did not regard that case as having the far-reaching consequences for which the petitioners contended. In any event, it was only the circular that obliged the council to treat the site as if it was a European site. It might be thought that that gave it protection at an earlier date than was otherwise required.

The assessment issue

The petitioners also argued that even if the boundaries had been correctly drawn, Scottish Heritage and the council could not have ascertained, as they were obliged to do under regulation 48(5), that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the proposed European site.

Conditional planning permission could not be granted for a project that was likely to have a significant adverse effect. Moreover, the standard was that of an absolute guarantee of a legal certainty that there would be no such effect: see Case C-435/92 *Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages v Prefet de Maine-et-Loire* ([1994] ECR I-67); Case C-157/89 *Commission v Italy* ([1991] ECR I-57); Case C-262/85 *Commission v Italy* ([1987] ECR 3073); and Case C-10/96 *Ligue Royale Belge pour la Protection des Oiseaux ASBL v Region Wallonne* ([1996] ECR I-6715).

While construction of the funicular in itself would not produce an adverse effect, the large number of visitors who would use it would have such an effect by spreading outwards into the site.

The planning agreement provided for a base-line survey to be undertaken and for a draft visitor management plan to be worked up into a final version, approved by Scottish Heritage and the council, after planning permission had been granted, albeit before the funicular could be opened to the public.

The agreement required continual monitoring of the effectiveness of visitor management, and enabled Scottish Heritage and the council to impose from time to time further or stricter rules upon the operation of the development. If a survey was needed then the council had not had information upon which it could ascertain that there was no adverse effect.

The deferral of the final version of the visitor management plan, and the fact that it was contemplated that monitoring might give rise to a need for further or different measures, showed that there had not been the necessary ascertainment when planning permission had been granted.

His Lordship did not accept that regulation 48 required an absolute guarantee that the integrity of the European sites would not be adversely affected.

The decisions of the European Court of Justice relied on by the petitioners did not seem to be of any relevance. They were all concerned with other situations.

There could never be an absolute guarantee about what would happen in the future, and the most that could be expected of a planning authority was to identify the foreseeable potential risks and to put in place a legally enforceable framework with a view to preventing them from materialising.

It was for that very reason that regulations 48(6) and 54(3) provided for the use of conditions.

There was nothing in the planning agreement or draft visitor management plan for which there was no authority in the 1994 Regulations. They were sufficient in law to enable Scottish Heritage and the council to secure compliance with the regulations.

In the end, the petitioners' argument came down to no more than a demonstration of a difference of opinion between the petitioners on the one hand and Scottish Heritage and the council on the other about the conclusions to be drawn from the assessment carried out under regulation 48. Such a difference of opinion did not entitle the court to intervene.

The environmental-information issue

The petitioners also argued that the council had acted unlawfully in not making available for public consultation, before the agreement was concluded and planning consent given, the final terms of the section 50 agreement and draft visitor management plan upon the basis of which the consent had been granted.

They contended that the council had been obliged to do so, since the agreement and plan described measures envisaged to avoid, reduce or remedy any significant adverse effects on the environment, in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Regulations (SI 1988 No 1221 (S 122)): see Case C-431/92 *Commission v Germany* ([1995] ECR I-2189).

The difference between the final terms and those put out for public consultation earlier had, by inference, been sufficiently significant to cause Scottish Heritage to withdraw its objection to the planning application.

The petitioners had not suggested that there was any material provision in the planning agreement and the draft visitor management plan annexed thereto which had not featured in one form or another in the earlier consultations. The submission was one of principle, that public consultation on the final versions was required.

In his Lordship's opinion that was misconceived. The objectives of the Environmental Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC (OJ 1985 No 175/40) had been correctly summarised by Lord Justice Pill in *Berkeley v Secretary of State for the Environment* (*The Times* March 2, 1998): see also *Commission v Germany* (paragraph 43).

The procedure desiderated by the petitioners would in effect have amounted to a requirement to secure each and every one of the consultees' approval of the final draft before the process was complete. There was no authority for that in either the Directive or the implementing regulations.

The consultation in the present case appeared to have been exceptional in the number of opportunities afforded to the petitioners among others to make representations. Any differences in the final texts from those consulted upon could properly be regarded as consequential upon that process.

If the petitioners were correct in their contention that every fresh draft required to be made available for public consultation, the planning process would become excessively protracted.

The situation in the present case was a fortiori of *Commission v Germany* and *Berkeley*, in each of which the court had had regard to the substance of the information which had been made available to the public, even if not in the form required by the legislation.

In the present case it was not suggested that the developers' environmental statement and the addendum thereto had not complied, either in form or in substance, with the statutory requirements.

Law agents: Tods Murray, WS; Solicitor, Secretary of State for Scotland; Archibald Campbell & Harley, WS; Biggart Baillie; Maclay Murray & Spens.

Court of Appeal — Law Report November 20 1998 — Court of Appeal

Using compelled affidavit in trial

Attorney-General for Gibraltar v May and Others

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment November 6]

Although the Attorney-General was bound by an implied undertaking not to use in criminal proceedings against a defendant the contents of an affidavit the defendant had sworn under a court order ancillary to an application for a Mareva injunction to freeze the defendant's assets, the court would exercise its discretion to release the Attorney-General from the implied undertaking.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the Attorney-General for Gibraltar from the refusal of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe on July 24, 1997 to allow him to vary his undertaking so as to permit him to use an affidavit of assets sworn by the first defendant, Geoffrey Peter May, in a prosecution of Mr May for alleged criminal offences.

Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC and Mr V Joffe for the Attorney-General; Mr R Howe for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the defendant had been a civil servant from 1972 to 1995. For most of his career he had worked at the Ministry of Defence in England, but between 1988 and 1993 he had been command cashier in the cash office at the naval base in Gibraltar.

During the period that the defendant worked in Gibraltar at least £370,000 had been stolen from the naval base. The thefts had come to light after he had left and he had been implicated by one of his former colleagues.

He had been extradited and was due to face trial before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar on November 16, charged with conspiracy to defraud, conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to commit false accounting.

In October 1996 the Attorney-General had sought a Mareva injunction to restrain Mr May from disposing of his assets. Mr Justice Rattee had ordered the defendant and five other members of his family to disclose their assets and the defendant had sworn an affidavit of assets in those proceedings.

It was the prosecution's case in Gibraltar that the affidavit set out significantly greater assets than the defendant could have accumulated legitimately from his salary as a civil servant.

The Attorney-General maintained that without the affidavit it would not be possible to prove a significant portion of the defendant's assets.

The privilege against self-incrimination was a basic common law right of fundamental importance in English law. However, the privilege did not protect a witness against self-incrimination in relation to possible criminal offences under foreign law by virtue of section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968.

The judge had held that affidavits sworn under compulsion were potentially subject to the same rules in relation to the implied undertaking as documents produced on discovery. Applying the test in *Crest Homes plc v Marks* ([1987] 1 AC 829), the judge had held that there were special circumstances to justify releasing the Attorney-General from the implied undertaking but that to do so would occasion injustice to the defendant as the person giving discovery.

Had the defendant been required to swear the affidavit in civil proceedings in Gibraltar he could have refused to do so as tending to incriminate himself. The same would have applied if had it been proposed to bring the prosecution in England.

The judge had said that in assessing the overall justice of the Attorney-General's application for release, the court could take into account that the question was being asked in one jurisdiction, whereas the criminal proceedings were in another, so that the defendant could not appeal directly to the privilege against self-incrimination.

In the instant proceedings, Mr Goldberg had submitted that the scope of the implied undertaking did not extend to the use of the material in criminal proceedings, relying on *Rank Film Distributors Ltd v Video Information Centre* ([1982] AC 380).

That case clearly established, as Mr Howe accepted, that the implied undertaking did not debar the use of the material by a prosecuting authority not itself bound by it.

It was common ground that had the Ministry of Defence, say, been the plaintiff in the civil proceedings, and if the affidavit had subsequently come into the hands of Attorney-General, for example, as a result of a subpoena duces tecum, then in that situation he would be free to use it in the criminal proceedings to Gibraltar.

However, as Mr Howe submitted, the situation was quite different where, as in the instant case, the Attorney-General was himself bound by the undertaking.

His Lordship concluded that Mr Howe was right as a matter of principle, and that the undertaking must be honoured by the party who gave it. It was therefore necessary for the Attorney-General to apply to the court to obtain release from the undertaking.

The Court of Appeal would interfere with the judge's exercise of his discretion only if he erred in principle or was plainly wrong. In his Lordship's view the judge had erred in concluding that the defendant had shown the possibility, even probability, of injustice if the Attorney-General was allowed to use the affidavit.

The trial judge in Gibraltar would have full power to exclude any evidence which he considered it would be unfair to admit and would have regard to the self-incriminatory nature of the evidence in the exercise of that discretion, thus avoiding any probability of injustice.

The nub of Mr Goldberg's argument was that the Gibraltar court was the proper forum for determining whether that evidence should be available in the criminal trial.

Mr Goldberg also submitted that the defendant ought properly to have objected before Mr Justice Rattee to swearing the affidavit, seeing that, even though section 14 of the 1981 Act precluded direct reliance on the doctrine of self-incrimination, he could have invoked that doctrine in support of an argument that the judge's discretion should be exercised in his favour.

For those and other reasons the Attorney-General should be released from his undertaking. His Lordship fully recognised the great importance of the privilege against self-incrimination, but it was clear that the Gibraltar court would in the exercise of its discretion whether or not to admit the evidence give full weight to that aspect, as well as to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

At the end of the day the Gibraltar court would be in a much better position to weigh up all the relevant considerations, including not only the full and proper protection of the defendant against any injustice but also the importance of ensuring, subject always to fairness, that all relevant material was available to the jury in a criminal trial.

Since completing the judgment, the court's attention had been called to *R v Martin and White* ([1998] 2 Cr App R 385) which was, in their Lordships' view, fully consistent with their conclusion.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Goldkorn Davies & Mathias; Dibb Lupton Alsop, Manchester.

Amendment plea refused

Darlington Building Society and Another v O'Rourke James Scourfield & McCarthy (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Waller and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment November 3]

A statement of claim by a building society alleging breaches of fiduciary duty and negligence against solicitors, who were acting for both lenders and borrowers in mortgage transactions, could not be amended after the expiry of the limitation period so as to include allegations of breaches of a different nature based on the solicitors' failure to disclose their knowledge of the borrower's fraud.

The effect of granting such an amendment would involve the addition of a new cause of action arising out of facts that were not the same as those pleaded in the original statement of claim.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an interlocutory appeal by the first plaintiff, Darlington Building Society, and the second plaintiff, Abbey National Building Society, from the refusal by Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on January 22, 1998, of their application to amend the statement of claim against the defendant solicitors, O'Rourke James Scourfield & McCarthy, and ordering that it be struck out.

Mr Adrian Jack for the plaintiffs; Mr Peter Crampin, QC and Mr Ulick Staunton for the solicitors.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL said that the first plaintiff's statement of claim against the solicitors was for breach of the terms of their retainer, fiduciary duty and negligence in the purchase and mortgage of a house at 644 Acklam Road, Middlesbrough for a Mr and Mrs Singh.

The second plaintiff claimed under the same heads against the same solicitors in respect of another property owned by Mr and Mrs Singh.

The solicitors had been retained both by Mr and Mrs Singh and by the two plaintiffs in respect of the transactions.

The complaint of the plaintiffs was that they were not told by the solicitors of the loan by and mortgage to the other plaintiff, which would have affected their decision to lend or the amount they would have lent.

Under the Limitation Act 1980 the primary limitation period for the claims was six years from the date when the cause of action first arose. That period expired shortly after the plaintiffs issued their writ in June 1996.

The proposed amendments sought to plead in a variety of ways that where solicitors acted for both borrower and lender then any duty of confidentiality which the solicitor would otherwise owe to the borrower in respect of facts relevant to the lender's decision to lend was overridden if the solicitor knew that the borrower was committing a fraud on the lender.

In addition the amended statement of claim contained allegations of further facts disclosed on discovery which were alleged to have been known at the relevant time to the solicitors and which showed that they knew or had strong prima facie evidence that Mr and Mrs Singh were seeking to commit fraud on both plaintiffs.

The combined effect of section 35(2)(a) of the Limitation Act 1980 and Order 20, rule 5, of the Rules of the Supreme Court was that an amendment to a statement of claim sought to be made after the primary limitation period had expired should not be granted if the amendment involved the addition or substitution of a new cause of action and if the new cause of action arose out of facts which were not the same or substantially the same as the facts already pleaded in the unamended statement of claim.

Where, as in the instant case, the claim was based on a breach of duty, whether arising from contract or in tort, the question whether an amendment pleaded a new cause of action required comparison with the unamended pleading to determine (a) whether a different duty was pleaded; (b) whether the breaches pleaded differed substantially and, where appropriate, (c) the nature and extent of the damage of which complaint was made.

Where an amendment pleaded a duty which differed from that pleaded in the original statement of claim it would, or certainly would usually, raise a new cause of action. If there was no allegation of a different duty but different facts were alleged to constituted a breach of the duty it was more difficult to decide whether a new cause of action was pleaded.

Mortgage Express Ltd v Bowerman & Partners ([1996] 2 All ER 836) established that if a solicitor was acting for both borrower and lender in one transaction and also acting for the same borrower in a separate transaction with a different lender, prima facie he owed a duty of confidentiality to his borrower client not to disclose to either lender information which he obtained during the course of the other transaction, even though that information would be relevant to that lender's decision whether or not to make the loan. That that was so undoubtedly created difficulties but was the state of the law.

There were however exceptions to that principle one of which was where the solicitor had reason to believe that a serious crime had been or was about to be committed.

It followed that in order to succeed in the action each plaintiff had to prove that the information which the solicitors obtained and which the plaintiffs alleged should have been disclosed to them respectively was not confidential.

Since prima facie information obtained while the solicitor was dealing with another transaction between his borrower client and another building society was confidential, the plaintiffs thus had to prove that such information disclosed or arose out of facts which tended to show fraud by the borrower.

Clearly in order to be required to disclose that information the solicitor had to know of, or at least have strong evidence of, such fraud from the facts he knew.

By Order 18, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a plaintiff was required to plead the material facts on which he relied for his claim and by rule 12(1) was expressly required to plead particulars of any fraud on which he relied.

Mr Crampin submitted that the plaintiffs were thus required to plead in their statement of claim that the Singhs were acting fraudulently, and to give particulars of the facts on which the plaintiffs relied in order to establish the fraud and to establish that the solicitors knew of or had strong evidence of that fraud.

If followed, he submitted, that both the nature of the duty and the breaches alleged in the amendment proposed to the statement of claim differed from those alleged in the original statement of claim.

That submission was correct and the judge was right to find that the amended statement of claim did plead a new or additional cause of action.

Further, having considered the facts alleged in the unamended statement of claim and the facts sought to be added by way of amendment it was clear that the second set of facts were not the same, or substantially the same, as those originally pleaded.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Rosenbergs; Crutes, Middlesbrough

Lack of means

Manson v Vooght and Others

The bringing of a claim which could have been brought in earlier proceedings might not be an abuse but if in all the circumstances the bringing of the claim in the succeeding action was an abuse, the court would strike it out unless there were special circumstances.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice May and Sir John Knox) so held on November 3 dismissing an appeal by Finian Paul Louis Manson from an order of Sir Peter Webster, sitting as a judge of the High Court, striking out his claims against Nigel John Vooght, Coopers & Lybrand International and Coopers & Lybrand International.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said the appellant's claim should have been raised in earlier concluded actions. The appellant had claimed that the scope of the earlier actions had been limited by the terms of his legal expenses insurance.

That did not excuse the abuse or amount to special circumstances. Lack of means could not stand as an excuse for abuse of process.

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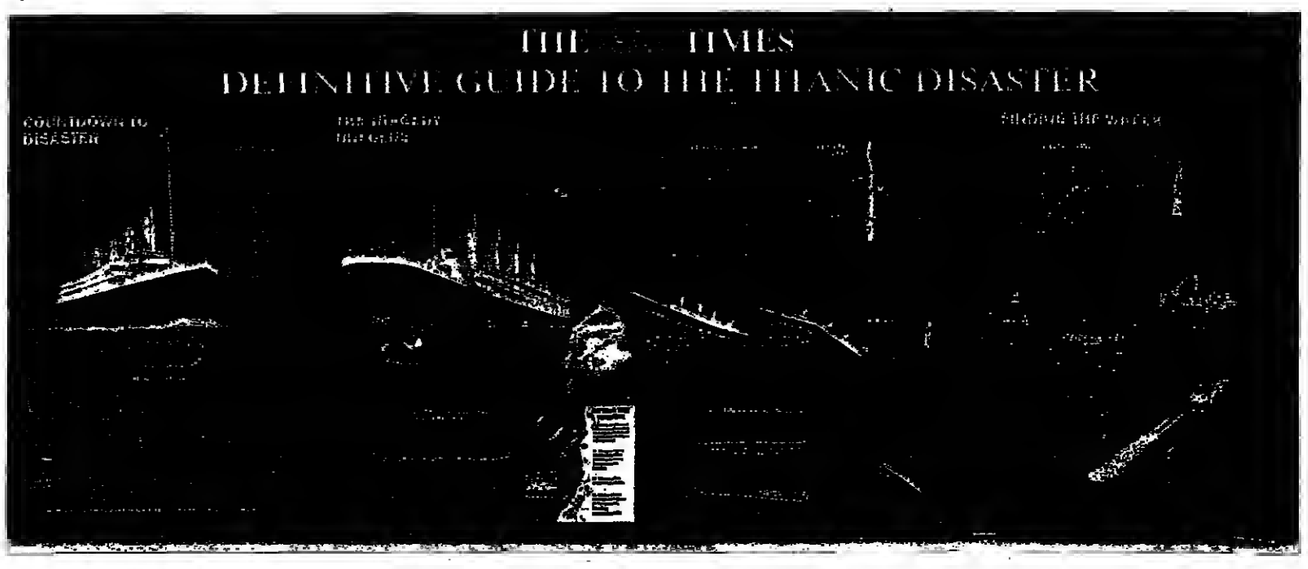


Brothers united in common aim

Kevin Eason on the chances of the McRaes creating history

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Alister, left, and Colin McRae, who will both be driving for Subaru, hope to dominate the Network Q Rally of Great Britain this weekend

Even with both McRae brothers in the same room, they barely utter a word between them. They are great believers *in actions speaking* louder than words. Colin, the elder and the senior by virtue of having been world champion, is famously sparing in his assessments and, predictably, did not have much to say when considering his own chances or those of the other drivers who will contest the Network Q Rally of Great Britain this weekend.

However, the words come quickly and enthusiastically *when he talks about his brother*, Alister, though that is not simply the product of sibling ties but a sign of the respect of one driver for another. So unstinting is his praise that the usually guarded Scot grins at the suggestion that two Subarus could cross the line on *Tuesday night in first and second* places, driven by the brothers McRae.

Far-fetched? Not at all, given the record of the McRaes in this most gruelling of rallies. Colin is a three-times winner, *while Alister won the junior* Formula Two class last year, only to have his Volkswagen Golf disqualified for infringing the rules on suspensions.

A McRae one-two would also be compensation for a season of disappointments in which neither man has been able *to realise* the rich potential that makes them among the best *drivers in world* motor sport. Colin was closing in on a second world championship before a blown turbocharger at the previous rally, in Australia, ended his campaign, — leaving the title between Tommi Makinen and Carlos Sainz.

For Alister, this season has *been one of waiting for his* chance in the senior formula *with a lucrative works drive in* one of the high-performance four-wheel-drive cars that dominate rallying.

He lost the opportunity of replacing his brother at Subaru to Richard Burns, the up-and-*coming Englishman*, but he has a one-off drive alongside big brother this weekend, forming half of a formidable team that could yet have a say in the outcome of the world championship.

"We have nothing to lose in this rally," Colin, 30, said. "We both *just want to go out* and win. Of course, it is disappoint*ing to be out of the world cham*pionship, *but I want to finish* the season on a high and there is *no better way than to* win here in *front* of our own fans.

"Alister deserves his chance and he will be right up there. It probably isn't fair to expect too much because he has not had much time in the car. But *he knows what to do and he* will take his chance because he has the ability. So we expect to do very well."

The sensible money is on Colin, the most bankable asset in rallying. This is his last rally with the Subaru team, with which he won the world championship, before he *moves to* Ford on a £6 million contract.

McRae Sr has a flamboyant driving style that belies his calm and quiet manner out of the car. There is no point in expecting a long monologue from the tall Scot, but, at the wheel, he can produce driving *of stunning ferocity.— a sort of* Michael Schumacher in the *mud, but without the ego.*

Alister, two years younger, is in the family mould, al*though blond and slighter* in physique than Colin. He was British Rally Champion in 1995 and has consistently

> ‘I want to finish the season on a high and there is no better way than to win here’

shown the sort of speed that marks him out, which is why Hyundai has picked him for its world rally championship effort next year.

He *will contest* only ten world rallies in the new Hyundai Coupe Evo II, but it is a move into the top-flight. "I was starting to worry that I would *be stuck in the British champi*onships and unable to move up," he said. "I feel I am ready for the world championship series and that makes this drive in Britain so important for me. It gives me a chance to prove what I can do in one of the four-wheel-drive cars."

There is *no jealously here*, though. Alister has watched while his brother has garnered the sort of riches that accrue to only the best sportsmen, with houses in Monaco and Verbier and a bank *balance that ensures lifetime* security.

"Colin is worth it," he said. "He is the quickest driver in the world. I just want my chance to prove what I can do. It will be very difficult here, but there is nothing to lose. Just drive and hope for the best."*In spite* of the doubts that Alister will be able to keep up with the best of the world rally stars, the dream persists that a British one-two is a gen*uine possibility. David Lap*worth, manager of the Prodrive Subaru Impreza 555 team, believes it is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

"The desire to perform well in front of their home crowd is very *strong* and they work very well together. We thought it would be fun to *see* whether it would work and put the brothers together.

"After all, it would be a first in rallying, probably in any sport, to have two brothers coming first and second in a *world championship* event like this."

Whether either McRae wins or not, one thing is for sure on the eve of this rally. All the top drivers will be casting an anxious eye over the blue Subarus before the start on Sunday. After all, they have spent the past year scrapping for points with one formidable McRae, now they have two to worry about.

HOCKEY

Loughborough grateful for switch by Lee

By Sydney Friskin

JASON LEE, the England and Great Britain forward, has joined Loughborough Students after a short stay with Cannock, for whom he scored two goals in a 3-3 draw with *Canterbury* in a Narional League match on October 25.

The move is linked with Lee's position as the East Midlands divisional coaching manager, which makes it more convenient for him to be based in Loughborough.

In a weekend of double*headers in the premier* division, Cannock will be without the injured defender Michael Johnson, who is replaced by Martin Jones, a promising young forward. On Sunday, Cannock will entertain Southgate, *who visit an injury-hit* Brooklands team on the previous day. Southgate have so far earned maximum points from their five matches and boast the only unblemished record.

Reading will be unchanged for a home match against Beeston tomorrow and a trip to Canterbury, the premier *division leaders, on Sunday.*

East Grinstead, with their *former coach* Richard Leman re-registered as a player, entertain Teddington tomorrow before a match against Bournville on the following day. Despite some heroic performances, East Grinstead are still without a point after five matches.

Hounslow, who are also struggling in the lower half of the table, have signed Steve Evans, a South African who has dual nationality status. Brooklands have recruited Jorge Gonzales, the Spain international, and Renaud Sterker, a Frenchman, has joined Indian Gymkhana in the first division.

Stourport, who share the first division leadership with Surbiton and Doncaster, face Firebrands on Sunday. Doncaster are at Eastcoat and Surbiton host Oxford Hawks.

Dutch expertise lifts Leicester

By Cathy Harris

THE gamble of being the first women's premier division club to appoint a foreign coach is beginning to pay off for Leicester. After an undistinguished start to the season, *Bo Koolen, from Holland, has* steered the promoted Midlands club to fourth place.

Most clubs are happy with a place in the top four and to qualify for the play-offs, but not Leicester. "It is not an absolute must," Koolen said. "We need to play good hockey *and the rest will follow. It's* not always important just to play for points."

Koolen should know, for as a former player at HGC, one of the most successful clubs in Holland and Europe, she knows all about the rigours of succeeding in play-offs and be*lieves that the format* keeps the mid-table battle alive. "It gives the whole league something to focus on," she said. For the time being, however, she is happy to concentrate on improving the basic skills of the team."I'm working on fitness and the technique for hit*ting," she said. "It's a big* weakness over here."

Koolen coached in Burma and Singapore when she and Dio, her husband, lived in Thailand. She was also an assistant coach to the United States women's squad at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

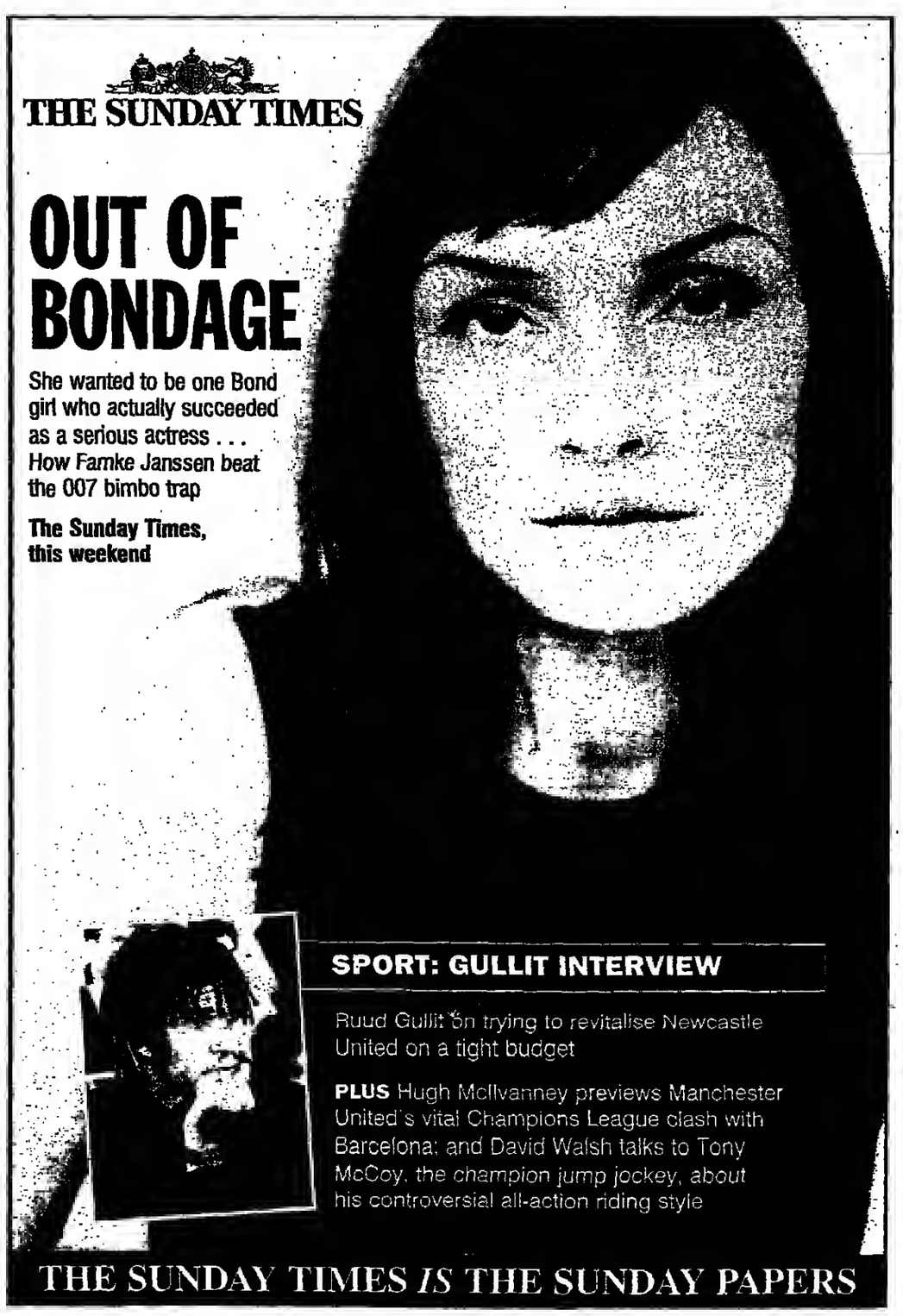
Koolen *describes teenager* Helen Richardson, of Leicester, as an England player of the future, but Jo Mould, the England defender, will be missing at Doncaster tomorrow after breaking a hand. Koolen is confident of victory, but the outcome at Ipswich, *where the unbeaten leaders* entertain Slough, the champions, is less predictable.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

OUT OF BONDAGE

She wanted to be one Bond girl who actually succeeded as a serious actress . . . How Famke Janssen beat the 007 bimbo trap

The Sunday Times, this weekend



SPORT: GULLIT INTERVIEW

Ruud Gullit on trying to revitalise Newcastle United on a tight budget

PLUS Hugh McIlvanney previews Manchester United's vital Champions League clash with Barcelona; and David Walsh talks to Tony McCoy, the champion jump jockey, about his controversial all-action riding style

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 32 – Stronger Balanced Hands

If you have a balanced hand but are too strong to open One No-Trump, then you must open One of your longest suit and rebid in no-trumps at your first opportunity. If you have a 4-3-3-3 or 5-3-3-2 distribution, this is easy because you have *only one "longest" suit. If you have two four-card suits* it is not quite so straightforward.

If you have an eight-card major-suit fit it is usually a good idea to play in it, otherwise no-trumps will normally be right. The easiest way to find a major-suit fit is to open a major so, with a four-card major and a four-card minor, it is better to open the major. If you have both majors you should open One Heart. If partner has four spades he will usually bid the suit so the spade fit will be found. The choice with both *minors is less important because the hand will probably be* played in no-trumps in any event, but this course recommends One Diamond.

Having opened One of your longest suit and heard partner's response in a new suit, you rebid no-trumps at the lowest possible level with 15-17 HCP and make a jump rebid in No-Trumps with 18-19 HCP. If you are lucky enough to be dealt 20-22 HCP you open Two No-Trumps in the first place, but more of that, and even stronger hands, later.

Choose your opening bid (and rebid) with the following hands:

(1) ♠AK75 ♡AQ54 ◇K5 ♣873

(2) ♠AQ43 ♡64 ◇AQ6 ♣K1065

(3) ♠KJ105 ♡AQ6 ◇AK76 ♣AJ

(4) ♠A65 ♡KJ104 ◇AQ65 ♣A6

(5) ♠AQ3 ♡KJ1064 ◇A3 ♣Q53

Hand (1) has 16 HCP and is 4-4 in the majors. Open One Heart. If partner responds One Spade give a jump raise to Three Spades (more on this later), but if he bids a new suit at the two level, rebid Two No-Trumps.

Hand (2) has 15 HCP and 4-4 in the black suits. Open One Spade. If partner bids a new suit at the two level rebid Two No-Trumps.

Hand (3) has 22 HCP. Open Two No-Trumps. I will show you how to bid over this strong opening bid in a later article.

Hand (4) has 18 HCP and is 4-4 in the red suits. Open One Heart. If partner bids One Spade jump to Two No-Trumps; if he bids a new suit at the two level bid Three No-Trumps.

With Hand (5) it is clear to open One Heart. Make a simple rebid in no-trumps if partner makes a change-of-suit response. If partner has three-card support for hearts he will be able to show that on the next round and the eight-card fit *won't be lost.*

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

British gold

In my column of November 9, I announced the double British gold medals in the world under-18 championships achieved by Ruth Sheldon and Nicholas Pert, both representing the British Chess Federation and generously supported by Saitek computers.

Today I give a victory by *Pert in the championship from* which he emerged victorious.

Pert's aggressive style leads to a powerful attack which he concludes with a sacrifice to demolish the fortifications around the opposing king.

White: Fedorchuk
Black: Pert
World under-18
Oroposa del Mar, Spain 1988
French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6
4	e5	Nfd7
5	Bd3	c5
6	c3	Nc6
7	Ne2	cxd4
8	cxd4	f6
9	exf6	Nxf6
10	Nf3	Bd6
11	0-0	Qb6
12	Nc3	0-0
13	Bg5	Ng4
14	Bh4	Nh6
15	Bg3	Bxg3
16	hxg3	Nf5
17	Bxf5	Rxf5
18	Na4	Qb4
19	Rc1	Qd6
20	Nc5	b6
21	Nd3	Ba6
22	Qa4	Bc4
23	b3	Bxd3
24	Rxc6	Qf8
25	Rfc1	Be4
26	Qa6	Rxf3
27	Rc8	Rxf2
28	Kh2	Bxg2
29	Rxa8	Bf1+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Kasparov challenge

The Times has been fortunate in being able to team up once again with world champion Garry Kasparov to offer a marvellous opportunity for our readers. In December, for charitable purposes, the champion will take *on* selected members of the public and ten *Times* readers will be invited to take part free of charge. Watch this column next week for full details of how to apply for entry.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times Weekend* column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HYGRIC
a. A mythical beast
b. Old Anatolian language
c. To do with water

NASTALIK
a. A tented village
b. A cursive script
c. An anti-clerical sectarian

NASUTUS
a. A descendant of Ovid
b. Having a big hooter
c. Having no clothes

NUDNIK
a. A bore
b. A blank
c. The Siberian antelope

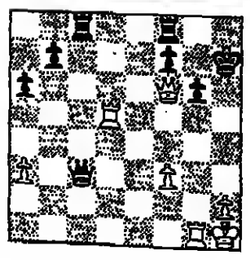
Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Minasian — Kosashvili, Elista Olympiad, 1998. Black, a pawn ahead, is trying to exchange queens to gain a promising endgame.

Can White do better than accept?



Solution on page 54

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1998

HOCKEY

ughborough rateful for itch by Lee

By Sidney Friskin

tch expertise ts Leicester

RACING: JOCKEY KEEPS QUESTION OF REDRESS OPEN AS PERSONAL ORDEAL ENDS

Osborne cleared in race-fixing investigations

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

JAMIE OSBORNE'S personal nightmare finally ended yesterday after being told he faces no charges and has been eliminated from all police inquiries into race-fixing and doping of horses.

The formal clearance by the Metropolitan Police's Organised Crime Squad, based on advice from the Crown Prosecution Service, comes almost ten months after the stylish National Hunt jockey was arrested — together with Leighton Aspell and Dean Gallagher — in a highly publicised dawn swoop.

Although the police intimated last month that it was unlikely Osborne would face any charges, it has taken the CPS six weeks to review his case — during which time the talented jockey has been the subject of national newspaper reports linking him with continuing police inquiries.

The lack of evidence against Osborne begs the question why he was arrested in the first place — and whether he will sue the Jockey Club, whose investigations prompted the police action. Osborne, who faces lawyers' bills running well into five figures, is keeping his powder dry concerning the possibility of seeking legal redress. "We are keeping the whole issue under review," he said.

Reflecting on yesterday's decision, he added: "I never envisaged it would be any other result but obviously I am pleased I can finally bury the rumours that have been going around. Contrary to other newspaper reports, this is the end. I am just disappointed it has taken so long to come.

"I am sure there will be some people who will draw their own conclusions from what has happened in the last ten months, but there is nothing more I can do to persuade people that there was no truth in any of the allegations.

"All of this has certainly opened my eyes as to the law and the way the system works, or is capable of working. I would not have believed, prior to what I have learned while being involved in this, that the police can go to the lengths they have gone to — without any evidence or justification — and spent so much taxpayers' money on a case that was never going to come to anything as far as I was concerned."

Steven Barker, Osborne's solicitor, added: "In my view, there was never any evidence against Jamie. Such 'evidence' as I saw was embarrassing in terms of reasons for an arrest, let alone passing on a file to the CPS. He has been cleared but the real question is why can a person be arrested in the full glare of the media and nine months later be told by the police there is nothing against him?

"Jamie has been through hell for no good reason. There was never a shred of evidence against him. But the wider issue is why people like him should be put through that for such a long time — and that is a question Parliament should address."

The arrest of the three jockeys followed a Jockey Club investigation into the doping of two horses, Avanti Express, ridden by Osborne, at Exeter in March 1997, and Lively Knight, ridden by Aspell, at Plumpton in April 1997. Both horses subsequently tested positive for the tranquiliser ACP. Aspell was ruled out of police inquiries earlier this year. Gallagher remains on bail but has not been charged with any offence.

☐ Suny Bay has been given a clean bill of health after his five-length defeat of Escartefigue at Haydock Park on Wednesday. He is quoted at 6-1 "with a run" for the Hennessy by William Hill and Ladbrokes, although his trainer, Simon Sherwood, will delay a decision on his participation until the weekend.

'Jacobs' banned

THE bogus amateur jockey, Angel Monserrate, who rode 21 times and recorded five winners under the pseudonym Angel Jacobs, was yesterday disqualified for ten years at a Jockey Club inquiry. Monserrate, who now works in a Cambridge restaurant, said: "Of course I regret what I did."

Monserrate rode in America legally under his own name until 1995 when he failed a drugs test and was banned. He reapplied for an amateur's licence in the name of Carlos Castro, but was arrested in November 1996 at Aqueduct, New York.

NEIL MUNNS

Osborne rides Coome Hill to victory on the day of his return to the saddle at Ascot last month

Kerawi to outclass rivals

ASCOT
BBC2

2.40: Nigel's Lad, fit from the Flat, finished four lengths clear of Kerawi when chasing home Marello at Wetherby 20 days ago but will be hard pushed to confirm that form on 7lb worse terms. Kerawi was carrying plenty of condition for his reappearance and should strip fitter here. Second in the Tote Gold Trophy last season, before finishing fifth in the Champion Hurdle, he should also be suited by stepping back from an extended three miles to today's shorter trip. Turnpole is not the most natural hurdler and Khayrawani may pose a bigger threat.

3.10: In a race best avoided for betting purposes, Mulkev Prince gets a tentative vote. The ex-Irish chaser fell at the third fence over course and distance 17 days ago, but his second to Direct Route on his final start last season gives him a realistic form chance and he has youth on his side — unlike most of his rivals.

TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ESTATE AGENT (1.00 Ascot)
NB: Good Lord Murphy (2.30 Exeter)

Hoh Warrior, another seven-year-old, appears to have lost his way. Storm Alert won off today's mark in April but is in the veteran stage. Super Coin runs well here but would prefer further or softer ground, which leaves Big Matt, from the in-form Nicky Henderson yard, as the main danger.

3.40: Aerion would have trotted up on his reappearance at Exeter but for falling three out, and Oliver Sherwood's talented runner can gain compensation here. Successful in his first three starts, he then missed a year because of a leg injury, but looks leniently handicapped. Papua ran a cracker behind Chai-Yo at Sandown and his chances will increase if the ground dries out. Effectual, winner of five races last season, looks a shade high in the handicap.

RICHARD EVANS

ASCOT

THUNDERER

1.00 Estate Agent 2.40 Kerawi
1.35 NEW LEAF (nap) 3.10 Mulkev Prince
2.10 Bunbury 3.40 Aerion

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.10 TWISTED LOGIC.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 RACING CHANNEL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,908: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

101 40-221 MYDSOTIS 13 (G) (Red Lion (Chipping Norton) Partnership) P Hiatt 4-11-8 ..E Husband 91
102 43-212 TAUFAN BOY 13 (BF,CD,S) (Supreme Team) G Balding 5-11-8 .....F Keniry (7) 109
103 2 DARIEN 11 (Wha! The Dickins) R Dickin 4-11-4 .....X Aizpuru 90
104 0/0 DOUG ENG 15 (P Douglas Engineering) M Pitman 5-11-4 .....L Corcoran (7) –
105 2110-2 ESTATE AGENT 17 (BF,F) (T & J Curry) P Nicholls 5-11-4 .....J Tizzard [illegible]
106 0044F- JOVIAN POND 186 (Miss S Haynes) H Haynes 6-11-4 .....R Massey 63
107 4-3 RAZOR RUDDOCK 23 (Regal Racing) R Rowe 4-11-4 .....R McCarthy (7) –
108 020/06 ROYAL RULER 11 (C Fewell) J Gillard 7-16-13 .....L Aspell 55

BETTING: 4-5 Estate Agent, 4-1 Taufan Boy, 5-1 Mydsotis, 10-1 Darien, 14-1 Razor Ruddock, 25-1 Doug Eng, Royal Ruler, 33-1 Jovian Pond.

1997: SUPREME CHARM 5-11-12 W Walsh (9-4 fav) K Bailey 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Mydsotis beat Minskcam 6l in 11-runner novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good), previously 2½l 2nd of 11 to Misty Class in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). Taufan Boy 2½ 2nd of 8 to Falmouth Boy in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft); previously beat Highland Jack 6l in 15-runner novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). Darien 5l 2nd of 13 to Alhosaam in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Doug Eng 30l 7th of 12 to Gentle Rhage in national hunt flat race at Haydock (2m, soft). Estate Agent 1½l 2nd of 15 to Ashley Muck in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 26l 11th of 25 to Alexander Banquet in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Jovian Pond 16l in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, firm), previously 21l 4th of 13 to Champagne Friend in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Razor Ruddock 9½l 3rd of 25 to Prominent Profile in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Royal Ruler 40l 6th of 9 to Barnapour in claiming hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft).

ESTATE AGENT clear of the remainder when second on his seasonal/hurdling bow, can go one better

1.35 PUNCH BOWL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,808: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

201 5/2113 HAUNTING MUSIC 20 (F,G) (R Miller) Mrs A Perrett 10-11-11 .....M A Fitzgerald 105
202 0151-2 YOUNG TOMO 47 (G) (M Thompson) J Howard Johnson 0-11-0 .....P Carberry 196
203 2303-1 CELTIC DUKE 169 (D,F) (T Hemmings) M Hammond 0-10-12 .....B Harding 32
204 43-323 NEW LEAF 13 (S) (Mrs O Hues) D Gandolfo 6-10-7 .....J Osborne [illegible]
205 -15644 WHITE DIAMOND 20 (D,F,S) (Mrs T Pritchard) Dr P Pritchard 10-10-5 ..Dr P Pritchard 111
206 0-P436 MARBLE CITY 21 (B) (M Denmark) M Pitman 5-10-4 .....N Williamson 107
207 003-02 RAMBLING SAM 9 (D,S) (D Jones) G Balding 0-10-0 .....B Clifford 67

Long handicap: Rambling Sam 9-12

BETTING: 5-2 Celtic Duke, 3-1 New Leaf, 7-2 Young Tomo, 11-2 Haunting Music, 8-1 Rambling Sam, 12-1 White Diamond, 14-1 Marble City.

1997: SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 0-11-1 Mr S Durack (4-1) 0 Williams 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Haunting Music 5½l 3rd of 6 to My Wanor in novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with White Diamond (20lb better off) 9l 4th. Young Tomo 1½l 2nd of 10 to Steen in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft), previously beat Admiral Talent ¾l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Musselburgh (3m 4f, good). Celtic Duke beat Slaughi Son 4l in 12-runner novice chase at Perth (3m, good to firm), previously 6l 3rd of 9 to Alpine Panther in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). New Leaf 1l 3rd of 11 to Dennymore Mist in novice handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously 2l 2nd of 7 to Come On Penny in novice handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f, good). Marble City 26l 6th of 14 to Ardrina in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to soft) with Rambling Sam (6lb better off) 37l 9th. Rambling Sam 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Executive King in novice handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft)

RAMBLING SAM, well suited by the step up to 3m last time, should make a bold bid off his feather weight

2.10 BISON GROUP NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,810: 3m) (7 runners)

301 BUNBURY (R Jones & A Jones) K Bailey 5-10-12 .....N Williamson –
302 10/ EDGE AHEAD 559 (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 8-10-12 ..M A Fitzgerald –
303 06- HOLBORN HILL 213 (J Brown) C Mann 6-10-12 .....J Magee –
304 000P-5 JUSTUCE ALONE 13 (Puppet Partnership) D Nicholson 5-10-12 .....R Johnson –
305 43 ROSEY BOY 18 (Miss P Wilson & M Wilson) M Pitman 5-10-12 .....R Farrant 33
306 SF1-5 TWISTED LOGIC 14 (D,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 5-10-12 ...S Bradley [illegible]
307 20-4PP THE BIZZO 13 (J Panvert) J Panvert 7-10-7 .....D Creech (7) 67

BETTING: 5-4 Twisted Logic, 7-2 Bunbury, 11-2 Edge Ahead, 7-1 Rosey Boy, 10-1 Justuce Alone, 12-1 Holborn Hill, 25-1 The Bizzo.

1997: BRACKENHEATH 6-10-12 N Williamson (9-1) D Grissell 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Bunbury unraced Gelderam gelding. Edge Ahead 84l 8th of 17 in Albermarle in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good), previously beat In The Van 1l in 16-runner national hunt flat race at Southwell (2m, AW). Holborn Hill beaten a distance 6th of 11 to Kilbride Lad in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, heavy), previously 21l 8th of 21 to Conchobor in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good). Justuce Alone beaten a distance 5th of 7 to Calling Wild in novice hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good to soft). Rosey Boy 35l 3rd of 8 to Pharr Less Hassle in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft), previously 37l 4th of 7 to Manfeo in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Twisted Logic 26l 5th of 15 to Mystere in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 6f 110yd, soft). The Bizzo pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good)

TWISTED LOGIC, a winning pointer in Ireland, could prove good enough in a poor race by Ascot standards

2.40 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS ASCOT HURDLE
BBC2
(Grade 2: £15,700: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

401 1131-2 NIGEL'S LAD 20 (D,G,S) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 6-11-7 .....A Thornton 148
402 40324- BIMSEY 265 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Ryan) M Pipe 8-11-0 .....M A Fitzgerald 138
403 12338/ CASTLE SWEEP 595 (D,G,S) (Lord Vestey) O Nicholson 7-11-0 .....R Johnson –
404 1/440- JUYUSH 377 (G,S) (W Sturt) J Old 6-11-0 .....T J Murphy 104
405 5320-3 KERAWI 20 (G,S) (M Archer & Miss J Bassehart) N Twiston-Davies 0-11-0 C Llewellyn [illegible]
406 6/218- KHAYRAWANI 205 (B,BF,D,F,S) (J McKenzie) C Roche (fin) 6-11-0 .....F M Berry 141
407 U2533- TURNPOLE 110F (D,G,S) (W W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 .... Mr A Dempsey 138

BETTING: 5-2 Khayrawani, 11-4 Kerawi, 11-2 Nigel's Lad, 8-1 Bimsey, Castle Sweep, 7-1 Turnpole, 20-1 Juyush.

1997: FRIDWELL 7-11-10 A P McCoy (6-5 fav) M Pipe 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Nigel's Lad 11l 2nd of 6 to Marello in handicap hurdle grade 2 at Wetherby (3m 1f, good) with Kerawi (7lb better off) 15l 3rd. Bimsey beaten a distance 4th of 6 to Buckhouse Boy in handicap hurdle grade 2 at Kempton (3m 110yd, good to firm), previously 15l 2nd of 5 to Mistraguest in hurdle grade 1 at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Castle Sweep brought down in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good); previously neck 3rd of 28 to Big Strand in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Juyush 23l 8th of 9 to Dona Point in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good), previously 21l last of 4 to Darayban in hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good). Khayrawani 5l 3rd of 9 to Native-Dancer in handicap hurdle grade 2 at Punchestown (2m, heavy); previously beat Cancoigo neck in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good to soft). Turnpole 3½l 3rd of 5 to Mighty Moss in hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to soft)

KERAWI showed some excellent form last season and should be seen to good effect of this trip

3.10 GERRARD GROUP HANDICAP CHASE
BBC2
(£9,285: 2m) (5 runners)

501 4F151- BIG MATT 206 (CD,G,S) (T Benfield & W Brown) N Henderson 10-12-0 .M A Fitzgerald 137
502 11113- SUPER COIN 226 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (G Brookes) R Lee 10-11-9 .....N Williamson 143
503 5221-U STORM ALERT 20 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Parrett) D Nicholson 12-11-6 ...R Johnson [illegible]
504 1RP-P6 HOH WARRIOR 17 (C,D,G,S) (D Allport & R Michaelson) C Mann 7-11-4 ....G Bradley 142
505 2102-F MULKEV PRINCE 20 (D,S) (W Black) J Howard Johnson 7-10-13 .....P Carberry –

BETTING: 7-4 Big Matt, 9-4 Super Coin, 7-2 Storm Alert, 9-2 Mulkev Prince, 20-1 Hoh Warrior.

1997: LEOTARD 10-10-11 N Williamson (7-4 fav) Miss V Williams 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Big Matt beat Lord Dorcet 9l in 8-runner handicap chase grade 1 at Punchestown (2m, heavy). Super Coin 10l 3rd of 6 to Benzene in handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with Big Matt (levels) 13l 5th. Storm Alert unseated rider in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft) with Hoh Warrior (levels) pulled up and Mulkev Prince (levels) fell. Hoh Warrior beaten a distance 6th of 7 to Lake Kariba in handicap chase grade 2 at Exeter (2m 1f, soft).

BIG MATT, best going right-handed, has to be given a chance with his stable in such good form

3.40 BISON GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE
BBC2
[SHOWCASE RACE] (£6,717: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

601 1145-3 EFFECTUAL 21 (BF,D,G,S) (B Dice) Miss V Williams 5-11-10 .....N Williamson 104
602 130-45 REAL ESTATE 13 (CD,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 4-11-6 .....R Johnson 122
603 /6433- MISTER RM 343 (D,F,G,S) (F Mills & W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 0-11-3 ...C Llewellyn 96
604 61P-2 PAPUA 13 (D,F) (H Hitchins) I Balding 4-11-2 .....B Fenton [illegible]
605 1/11/F AERION 17 (BF,D,G,S) (Chamberlain Addscott) O Sherwood 7-11-2 .....J Osborne –
606 1843-1 NEAT FEAT 26 (D,F,G,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) O Elsworth 7-10-5 .....P Holley 126

BETTING: 6-4 Aerion, 11-4 Papua, 4-1 Effectual, 7-1 Mister Rm, 8-1 Neat Feat, 16-1 Real Estate.

1997: ELA AGAPI MOU 4-11-5 A P McCoy (9-4) 6 L Moore 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Effectual 5l last at 3 to Simons Castle in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft); previously 34l 5th at 6 to Rubbatunish in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft). Mister Rm 44l 3rd of 7 to Tibetan in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good); previously 14l 3rd of 7 to Stormyfalmwaithe in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). Papua 8l 2nd of 7 to Chai-Yo in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with Real Estate (2lb better off) 41l 5th. Aerion fell in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, soft); previously beat Hay Dance 1½l in 8-runner novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Neat Feat beat Advance East 1½l in 12-runner handicap hurdle in Wincanton (2m, good); previously 7l 3rd of 17 to Mountain Storm in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm).

PAPUA, a useful sort on the Flat, can rate higher over hurdles and promises to go close here

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Mrs M Reveley	4	9	44.4	R Johnson	10	40	25.0
I Balding	5	19	26.3	J Osborne	25	100	25.0
D Nicholson	19	86	22.1	N Williamson	15	70	21.4
K Bailey	13	60	21.7	A Thornton	7	34	20.6
Miss V Williams	3	14	21.4	L Aspell	3	17	17.6
M Pipe	16	78	20.5	B Fenton	3	22	13.6

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Exeter: 1.20 Life's Work, Dancing Poser. Southwell: 12.40 Charming Admiral. 1.10 Modest Hope. 2.20 Golden Biff. 3.20 Grey Strike. 3.50 Peter Perfect, VIP Charlie.

☐ Leading French jockey Olivier Peslier plans to have his first ride over hurdles on Sunday. Peslier, whose big-race wins on the Flat this year have included the Vodafone Derby and a third successive Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, will be in action at Auteuil. Shippy Ellis, who looks after the Frenchman's interests in Britain, said: "It has always been Olivier's ambition to ride over hurdles and he will partner a horse for Daniel Wildenstein at Auteuil on November 22."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wincanton

Going: good (good to soft in places)

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Brush With Time (W Marston, 11-1); 2, Red Guard (14-1); 3, Krabloonik (33-1). Irish Frolic (6th) 9-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Multi Franchise. ¾l, 1l. Mrs S Wilkerns. Tote: £12.90; £3.00, £4.20, £7.90. DF: £91.80. CSF: £142.57. Tricast: £4,437 73.

1.50 (2m 5f ch) 1, Over The Water (A Thornton, 1-2 fav); 2, Kentish Bard (5-2); 3, Black Spring (12-1). 5 ran. 2l, 30l. R Alner. Tote: £1.60, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2 12.

2.20 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Buck's Palace (J Tizzard, 10-11 fav); 2, Goodtime George (7-4); 3, Upham Lord (9-2). 4 ran. Nk, 7l. P Nicholls. Tote £1.90. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.77.

2.50 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Calling Wild (J Tizzard, 13-8 fav), 2, Aller Moor (3-1); 3, Royal Barge (8-1). 4 ran. 7l, 21l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.30. DF: £2.90. CSF: £6 13.

3.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, King of Sparta (C Maude, 14-1), 2, Piper's Rock (6-1); 3, Raqib (3-1). Fourth In Line (5th) 5-2 fav. 14 ran. NR: Reeganesque. 2l, 2½l. J Portman. Tote: £16.70; £3.60, £3.70, £1.80. DF: £26.20. Trifecta: £437.10. CSF: £106.33. Tricast. £585 91.

3.50 (2m hdle) 1, Easter Ross (J R Kavanagh, 3-1; Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Darakshan (10-1), 3, Dragon King (6-1). Hay Dance (fell) 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 2½l, 5l. N Henderson. Tote: £4.30; £1.60, £4.80, £1.40. DF: £28.60. CSF: £28.81 Tricast: £153.07.

Placepot: £494.20. Quadpot: £14.20.

Warwick

Going: good (good to soft in places)

12.55 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Northern Maestro (J Goldstein, 12-1); 2, Mankind (20-1); 3, The Flying Doctor (12-1); 4, Chopin (7-1). Sweet Trentino 6-1 fav. 18 ran. NR: Balmoral Princess. 9l, 4l. J Mackie. Tote: £15.00; £2.40, £11.70, £3.40, £1.70. DF: £223.80 CSF: £216.29. Tricast: £2,693.50.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, King On The Run (A Maguire, 13-8 fav); 2, Bahale Boy (20-1); 3, Shu Gaa (100-30). 8 ran. 5l, 6l. D Nicholson Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £3.10, £1.40. DF: £18.90. CSF: £23.00.

2.00 (2m ch) 1, Cool Gunner (T J Murphy, 9-1); 2, Gee Real (10-11 fav); 3, Dantes Cavalier (2-1). 4 ran. ¾l, 3½l. J King. Tote: £6.60. DF: £5.50. CSF: £16.81.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Country House (M A Fitzgerald, 11-2); 2, Skipcarl (8-1); 3, Wilmott's Fancy (8-1). Mystere (4th) evens fav. 17 ran. ¾l, 6l. J Old. Tote: £5.90; £2.20, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £21.20. CSF: £42.82.

3.00 (3m 2f ch) 1, Macgeorge (M A Fitzgerald, 8-1); 2, Torduff Express (2-1 fav); 3, Caribou Gold (6-1). 7 ran. 5l, 6l. R Lee. Tote: £10.00; £3.60, £2.10. DF: £9.20. CSF: £21.90

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Artadoin Lad (D Leahy, 6-5 fav); 2, Prince Bebar (8-1); 3, Professor Cool (14-1). 18 ran. NR: Ice Maiden, Schnozzle. 2½l, 4l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £2.00, £4.80. DF: £7.80. CSF: £6.47.

Placepot: £363.80. Quadpot: £58.20.

Sedgefield

Going: good to soft (good in places)

1.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Lord Pat (F Leahy, 11-4 fav); 2, Harkness Warrior (7-1); 3, Boston Man (10-1); 4, Salinger (13-2). 18 ran. 3½l, 7l. Miss Kate Milligan. Tote: £3.30; £1.30, £2.80, £2.60, £2.30. DF: £23.00. CSF: £20.48. Tricast: £166.79.

1.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Country Orchid (M H Naughton, 5-2 fav); 2, Radanpour (7-1); 3, Nijmegen (14-1). 6 ran. NR: Durano, Irish Wildcard. 2l, 11l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote. £3.00; £1.80, £1.60. £2.20. DF: £16.80 CSF: £17.92. Tricast: £179.06.

2.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, House Captain (R Garritty, 3-1 co-fav); 2, Into The Black (8-1); 3, Nosam (16-1). Revolt 3-1 co-fav. 12 ran. 11l, 16l. J FitzGerald. Tote. £4.30; £1.50, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £10.30. CSF: £26.32.

2.40 (3m 3f ch) 1, Zimmerer (Mrs C Ford, 7-4 fav); 2, Up And Over (20-1); 3, Kittocheide Lad (12-1). 13 ran. 8l, 3l. R Ford. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £7.30, £3 40 DF: £31.20. CSF: £41.33. Tricast: £334.39.

3.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Chummy's Sage (R Supple, 7-2); 2, Corbleu (25-1); 3, Queensway (5-1) Xalgete (4th) 6-4 fav. 8 ran 9l, 2l. L Lungo. Tote. £5.30; £1.80, £5 50, £1.70. DF: £40.50. CSF: £63.11. Tricast: £394.01.

3.40 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Valigan (R Supple, 100-30); 2, Mr Mahdlo (20-1); 3, Donnegale (33-1). Lippy Louise (4th) 4-5 fav. 12 ran. 1½l, 8l. L Lungo. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £6.40, £14.60. DF: £61.10. CSF: £56.19.

Jackpot: £6,164.60.

Placepot: £413.00. Quadpot: £120.90.

EXETER

THUNDERER

12.50 Arctic Chanter. 1.20 Veiled Dancer. 1.55 Sounds Like Fun. 2.30 Good Lord Murphy. 3.00 Alkateb. 3.30 Papo Kharisma. 4.00 Black Secret.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 BONUSFILM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,786: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 016/ QUELQUE CHOSE 824 (BF,F,S) B Millman 0-11-10 ..O Salter –
2 13-5 BLUE BLAZER 16 (S) R Frost 8-11-2 .....T O'Connor (5) [illegible]
3 12-4 ARCTIC CHANTER 31 (C,S) P Hobbs 0-11-0 .R Widger (3) 78
4 423/ QUAKER WALTZ 590 J Tuck 8-10-12 .....H Oliver –
5 3/P1 KORTHI BANNER 23 (F,G,S) K Burke 11-10-3 ..M Griffiths 85
6 025/ CALLERMINE 543 Miss H Day 9-10-1 .....D O'Sullivan (5) –
7 04-P STRIKE-A-POSE 23 (F,S) B Llewellyn 6-10-0 Michael Brennan 56
8 P-U3 MEMORY'S MUSIC 23 (BF,S) M Madgwick 6-10-0 .S Durack 86
9 665F FLUTTERBY LADY 31 A Barlow 5-10-0 .....M Batchelor 86
10 P42- PARISIAN 297 M Bradstock 13-10-0 .....R Studholme 84
11 00-0 OGIER BATTANT 153 (C,D,F,S) R Baker 8-10-0 G Shenkin 61
12 FP0- KALMOLOD 256 A D Smith 4-10-0 .....G Supple –
13 8-P0 LOFTY DEED 6 (B,S) Mrs C Hicks 0-10-0 .....O McPhail 60

3-1 Arctic Chanter, 4-1 North Banister, 6-1 Memory's Music, Blue Blazer, 8-1 Flutterby Lady, 16-1 Parisian, Strike-A-Pose, 12-1 others.

1.20 BONUSPHOTO NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE [TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£2,460: 2m 6f) (14)

1 P134 WAYWARD FLOWER 17 (V,C,S) M Pipe 4-11-10 ....C Maude 87
2 0-21 LIFE'S WORK 17 (V,CD,S) P Hobbs 6-11-10 .R Dunwoody 72
3 233/ TREMPLIN 609 N Hawke 7-11-4 .....M Richards –
4 431/2 MINNISAM 13 (F,G) S Hare 5-11-1 .....S Burrough 82
5 /P-3 TOPANGA 13 M Madgwick 6-10-0 .....R Studholme (5) 72
6 430- PARDAN 51F B Palling 4-10-3 .....S Durack 74
7 /UP1 BOWLES PATROL 11 (S) J Upson 6-16-1 (5ex) ...J Supple [illegible]
8 /050 DANCING POSER 2 (V) G Balding 6-10-0 .....Mr R Arnold –
9 -23P BRONWALLOW 5 (B) Mrs B Waring 5-10-0 .....E Byrne 62
10 P-56 VEILED DANCER 8 R Frost 5-10-0 .....Mr A Holdsworth 96
11 3-50 LIME STREET BLUES 29 T Keddy 7-10-0 .....D Leahy 87
12 2-02 REDGRAVE WOLF 44 K Bishop 5-10-0 .....R Greene 68
13 050- SANDANTE 294 R Buckler 7-10-0 .....B Powell 71
14 0P0- TIRLEY GALE 181 J Smith 6-10-0 .....W Marston –

11-4 Lift's Work, 7-2 Bowles Patrol, 6-2 Minnisam, 7-1 Wales Flower, 10-1 Topanga, Redgrave Wolf, 12-1 Brontallow, 14-1 others.

1.55 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,352: 2m 3f) (4)

1 P31- WAYWARD KING 210 (D,S) R Hodges 0-11-13 ..T Dascombe 113
2 21-2 SOUNDS LIKE FUN 13 (D,G) Miss H Knight 7-11-11 J Culloty 125
3 2P-4 MR PLAYFULL 17 (CD,F,G,S) R Frost 8-10-12 .....J Frost 131
4 6/11 TWIN FALLS 23 (B,D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-10-5 R Dunwoody [illegible]

5-4 Sounds Like Fun, 5-2 Twin Falls, 3-1 Wayward King, 6-1 Mr Playfull.

1.10 DUDLEY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,564: 1m 4f) (11)

1 0500 SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 16 (D,F,G,S) O Barker 7-17-7 .....Mrs C Williams (3) 9
2 0000 MELS BABY 18 (F,S) J Eyre 5-11-3 .....Miss D Jones 10
3 2022 NOUKARI 8 (BF) P Evans 5-11-2 .....A Evans (3) 4
4 0012 BADRINATH 31 (F,G) J Pearce 4-10-12 .....K Lands (7) 8
5 000- CASHAPLENTY 61 (D) N Littmoden 5-10-8 .....J Salter (7) 2
6 4000 MERCURY 172 (C) B Baugh 5-10-4 .....Miss S M Potts (7) 7
7 5000 DOUBLE ECHO 25 (CD,F,G,S) J Bethell 16-16-2 .C B Hills (5) 5
8 0000 PRIX DE CLERMONT 25 (B) G L Moore 4-10-1 ..Mrs J Moore 11
9 5303 DUNCOMBE HALL 92 (G) J Cullinan 5-9-12 Miss E Earley (5) 3
10 0100 MODEST HOPE 31 (V,CD,F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 11-9-8 .....Mrs L Pearce 6
11 0100 KPOLO 52 B R Johnson 3-9-3 .....G A P Lewars (7) 1

2-1 Noukari, 6-1 Duncombe Hall, 7-1 Badrinath, 8-1 Mels Baby, 10-1 others

1.45 DUNSTON CLAIMING STAKES (£2,316: 5f) (17)

1 2111 KRYSTAL MAX 246 (CD,F) T Barron 5-9-8 Kimberley Hart (5) 12
2 0020 GARNOCK VALLEY 21 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 8-9-0 .....G Carter 2
3 5050 POLAR MIST 8 Mrs N Macauley 3-9-0 ....Dean McKeown 10
4 6030 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 38 (D,F,G,S) D Barker 6-8-13 .....Jenny Benson (7) 3
5 0050 MYSTICAL 21 (V,D,G,S) D Nicholls 4-8-13 ...A Nicholls (5) 4
6 3100 BLUSHING GRENADIER 14 (B,F,G,S) 6 Bowring 6-8-12 .....C Teague (3) 11
7 3062 ELTON LEDGER 7 (V,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-10 R Price 8
8 0020 SILK COTTAGE 21 (B,D,F) R Bastiman 6-8-10 ...L Newton 14
9 00 WELL SMART 7 D Carroll 3-8-9 .....R FitzPatrick (5) 7
10 5000 TANGERINE FLYER 4 (D) P Evans 3-8-8 ....T G McLaughlin 5
11 0005 LEOFRIC 5 (V) M Polglase 3-8-7 .....P Doe (5) 17

2.20 GRANTHAM NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,913: 5f) (12)

1 1031 DANIELLE'S LAD 14 (D,F,S) B Palling 9-7 ...G Faulkner (3) 8
2 0101 NORTHERN SVENGALI 36 (D,F,S) T Barron 9-7 ....O Peters 1
3 0554 ADELPHI BOY 59 M Chapman 8-9 .....L Newton 7
4 0046 POLLY MILLS 21 (V,D,S) P Evans 8-5 .....Dane O'Neill 11
5 0056 BODFARI TIMES 23 A Bailey 0-2 .....F Norton 10
6 0244 LADY MELBOURNE 23 (BF) M Johnston 0-1 .....J Fanning 5
7 2003 GOLDEN BIFF 4 (B) I Semple 7-12 .....P Doe (5) 12
8 3652 PALACE GREEN 34 (BF,CD) O Chapman 7-12 ...T Williams 3
9 1005 TRINA'S PET 34 (CD) J Balding 7-12 .....J Edmunds 9
10 0501 CELTIC SEAL 7 (CD) J Balding 7-11 (7ex) .....M Carlisle 2
11 6500 RAJMATA 23 M Prescott 7-10 .....J Quinn 4
12 0001 OFF HIRE 16 (D,S) C Smith 7-10 .....C Cogan (7) 5

7-2 Lady Melbourne, 9-2 Northern Svengali, 13-2 Danielle's Lad, 7-1 Bodfari Times, 8-1 Palace Green, 10-1 Polly Mills, Celtic Seal, 14-1 others.

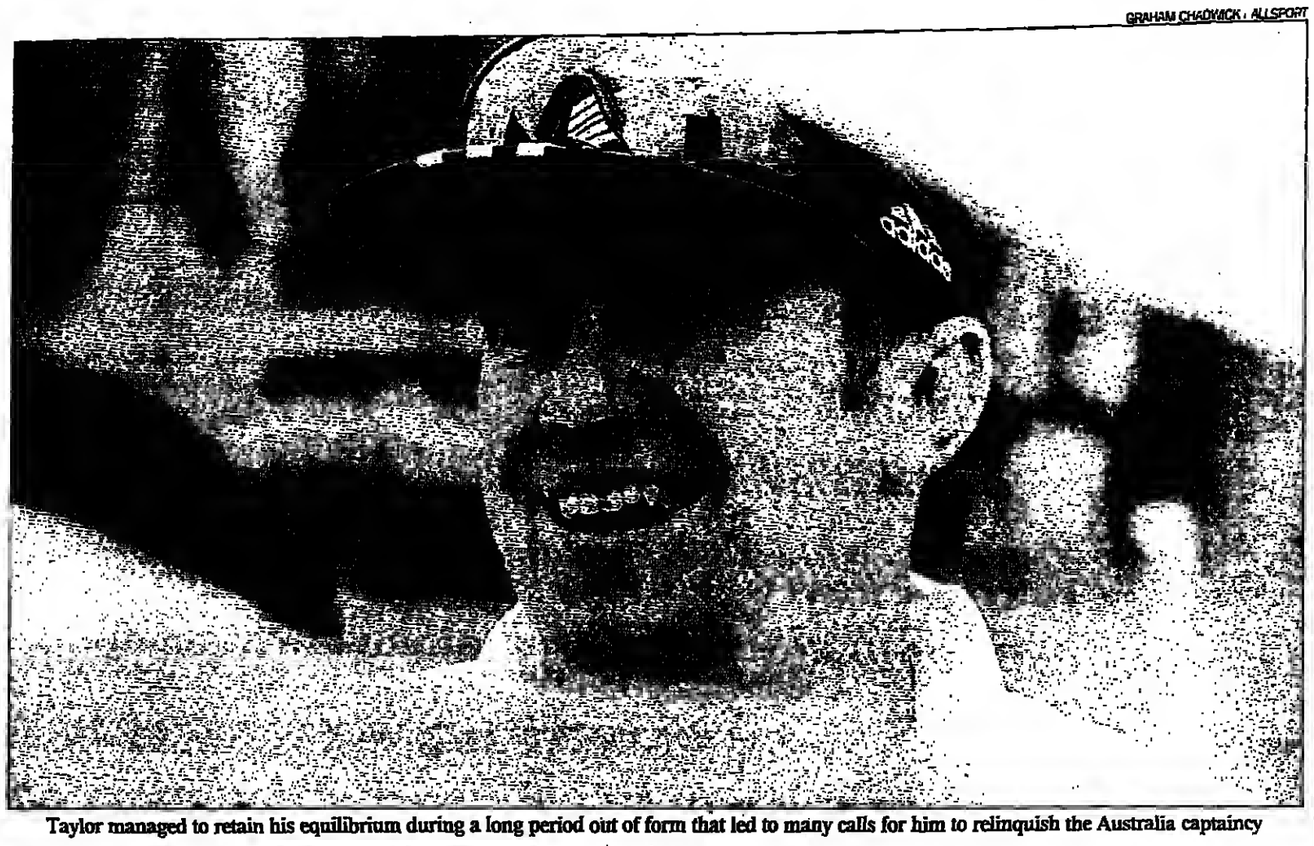
2.50 BRIDGETOWN MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,892: 7f) (16)

1 4020 HOH NAVIGATOR 20 D French Davis 9-0 .....M Fenton 12
2 0000 HOUSE ON FIRE 146 G Woodward 9-0 .....L Newton 6
3 0405 JUST NOBBY 21 Enrico Incisa 9-0 .....Kim Tinkler 14
4 4005 LORENZO 3 K Mahdi 9-0 .....J Quinn 5
5 0400 MAC'S DREAM 151 A Carroll 9-0 .....M Tebbutt 7
6 ROYAL GERMAN E Dunl

Alan Lee talks to the Australia captain as he starts his 100th Test match

Taylor celebrates century stand

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT



Taylor managed to retain his equilibrium during a long period out of form that led to many calls for him to relinquish the Australia captaincy

Time has passed, wounds have healed and Mark Taylor now feels able to admit that life would have turned out rather differently for him if he had not made a memorably ugly, yet stirringly defiant century at Edgbaston in June last year.

He would not have led Australia to a fifth successive Ashes victory, or a first in Pakistan for 38 years. He would not have equalled Sir Donald Bradman's 334, the highest Test score by an Australian. And he would not, this morning, be starting his 100th Test match.

More than all this, indeed, Taylor would not have achieved the mystical status conferred upon him for his captaincy of one of the finest teams the world has known. He would just have been the good guy who had to get out when the runs dried up.

Small wonder, then, that Taylor reflects upon that week in Birmingham with more affection than he would normally devote to a defeat by England. "It was the toughest time for me, and if I hadn't made runs in that second innings I'd have had a lot of bridges to cross," he said yesterday.

At the time, Taylor had gone 20 Test innings without a half-century and was being told through every media channel, and by many cricketing luminaries, that he must go before he dragged his team down with him.

Being the pragmatist he is, Taylor bears no grudges. "A few people could have been more tactful in what they said, but it was a lot tougher for my family, who don't understand the job of the critic. They just see what is being said about me and they hate the bloke who's doing it.

"What worried me was that everyone in our side had got sick of hearing about Mark Taylor's form. The time was coming for me to make an honest appraisal. I had started to wonder if my eye had gone. I'd started to doubt myself.

"That 129 wasn't a great innings to watch. There were a lot of squirts through the slips. The best shot I played, when I finally fell my feet were in the right place, was the one that took me to 100 — and that was only a single.

"I realised afterwards that in the months I was out of form I was searching for the perfect answer. I wanted to play the lovely cover drive, follow up with a cut and a pull, then a straight drive for four, just to say 'look, I'm back'. But I haven't played many innings like that and I don't think many batsmen have."

In truth, Taylor has never been a batsman to stir a sense of anticipation. He has accumulated, with tucks behind square leg and pushes to cover, only occasionally unleashing his favourite straight drive. Because of this, and despite a Test match aggregate of more than 7,000 runs at almost 45 per innings, his batting has been lauded far less than his leadership.

His average was even higher before he took on the captaincy, four years ago. "I made a 'pair' in my first Test as captain, on a flat wicket in Karachi, and it was only then that I thought 'hang on, I've got to make some runs here, too'. At certain times, the job has affected my batting and I think if I hadn't been captain I might have made a few more runs."

TAYLOR'S TEST RECORD

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Aver	100	50	Ct	St
1989-1996	92	176	13	7297	334*	44.76	19	38	148	1
1994-95 in Pakistan: Lost 0-1; 1994-95 v India: Won 3-1; 1995-96 v West Indies: Won 3-1; 1995-96 v Sri Lanka: 3-0; 1996-97 in India: 0-1; 1996-97 in South Africa: Lost 1-2; 1997 in New Zealand: 2-0; 1997 v South Africa: 1-0; 1997-98 in Pakistan: 1-0.										
Taylor	145	273	23	10,110	334	40.44	29	50	172	1
Captain: Taylor	113	210	10	6,996	334	35.04	19	38	134	1

This is as close as he comes to any show of regret, for the captaincy has made his name, moulding a reputation that will guarantee him high esteem in whatever field he eventually branches into.

Among his first promises, when he stepped into the daunting shoes of Allan Border, Taylor said that he would be accountable and that he would seek to play adventurous cricket. He has never shirked on either pledge.

Taylor has made some difficult and controversial decisions, without losing face or popularity, and those close to him say that he has invariably made them without consultation. Under his rule, the coach has become a more peripheral figure than during the power-sharing of Border and Bob Simpson.

He has distanced himself from his players when necessary, but the lines of communication are strong. "We talk more openly now than we ever did before and that's how I like it. If someone in the side has got the squirts with me, I want him to come and tell me."

Plainly, he still relishes the demands of the position. "As a captain, you can no longer say you'll just walk out and set the fields and when six o'clock comes you'll be one of the boys. There's too much going on now."

Under Taylor, Australia have won a lot, lost a few and drawn hardly at all. It is not in his nature to play five days for a stalemate and while his notion that Test cricket should be entertaining met with some cynicism at first, nobody doubts his sincerity now.

Through five winning series against England, in which he has played every game, Taylor identifies mental approach as a key difference between the teams. "I think we've been stronger than England in that area, but then we've been stronger than a lot of sides. There are key periods in every game, 15-minute sessions that need to be won. That's when you get mentally tough."

He believes this will be his last Ashes series and that he is more likely to be in the commentary box next time. But he is not certain. "I'm playing as well as I have for a while. I won't give it away while I'm still competitive."

☐ *The Times Ashes Series Hotline 0891 881461. Reports, updates and occasional commentary. Calls cost 50p per minute.*

FOOTBALL

Ireland gain new respect despite defeat

By Russell Kempson

IRELAND had hoped for a draw against Yugoslavia in Belgrade on Wednesday night and Northern Ireland had expected a victory over Moldova in Belfast. That neither match went according to plan, in the latest round of the qualifying series for the 2000 European championship, caused dismay in the republic and the province. Irish eyes were most definitely not smiling.

Yet although Ireland lost 1-0 in the Maracana Stadium and relinquished their 100 per cent record in group eight, Mick McCarthy, their manager, still managed to draw comfort from a courageous display in a hostile environment. Only Predrag Mijatovic's 65th-minute goal separated the sides.

"I think we've gained a great deal more respect from the big two in our group [Yugoslavia and Croatia] by the manner in which we played," McCarthy said. "The Yugoslavs are not going to be that confident about coming to Dublin in June. I believe it only came down to them getting a break and us not getting one."

After going behind, when Gary Breen and Steve Staunton failed to cut out a cross from Jovan Stankovic, Ireland pressed forward and had two strong appeals for penalties turned down. "They both looked penalties to me," Roy Keane, the Ireland captain, said. "It's a big disappointment to work so hard and play like we did but get nothing."

Ireland still lead the group on goal difference and before their next tie — against FYR Macedonia in Skopje on March 27 — hope to arrange a match against Spain, Holland or Switzerland in Dublin in February.

Northern Ireland missed the chance to share the leadership of group three after being held to a 2-2 draw by Moldova, the bottom team. Moldova twice went ahead and had Alexandru Curtean, their captain, sent off in the 66th minute for committing his second bookable offence.

Iain Dowie scored the first equaliser — taking his tally to 12 international goals, one short of Colin Clarke's Northern Ireland record — and Neil Lennon guided in the second after a long throw-in from Steve Lomas. Finland and Turkey lead the group on six points, with Northern Ireland two points behind.

In non-European championship matches on Wednesday, Spain drew 2-2 with Italy in Salerno while Holland and Germany drew 1-1 in Gelsenkirchen. Germany, who have made a stuttering start to their Euro 2000 campaign, fell behind to a goal from Michael Reiziger in the twentieth minute. Although impressing only rarely, they equalised seven minutes into the second half through Olaf Marschall.

Tore Andre Flo, the Chelsea striker, scored Norway's equaliser in the 1-1 draw against Egypt in Cairo but aggravated a hip injury and is doubtful for Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership game against Leicester City tomorrow.

STANDINGS

Group three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Turkey	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Northern Ireland	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Germany	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Moldova	3	0	1	2	5	8	1

Group eight

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
FYR Macedonia	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Croatia	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	2	15	0

McCarthy: respect gained

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Offshore Petroleum and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Impacts) Regulations 1998.
Development of the Millom East offshore gas field in the East Irish Sea
Burlington Resources (Irish Sea) Limited has applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for consent to develop in relation to the Millom East offshore gas field located 50 km north west of Blackpool in the East Irish Sea (at co-ordinates 54° 00' 39"N 03° 46' 16"W). In accordance with the above mentioned Regulations this application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement, a copy of which may be inspected between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on I.Iwk days at Burlington Resources offices, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AA (Contact 0171 206 4642); at Cumbria Emergency Planning Unit, Aspinall House, The Castle, Carlisle CA3 8UR (Contact Mr David Jackson 01228 524115); at Lancashire Emergency Planning Headquarters, Westleigh, Leigh Road, Leigh, Preston PR5 0RB (Contact Mr David Brown 01772 729297) or at Preston Enterprise, Trinity Enterprise Centre, Preston Business Park, Bertha-St-Preston, Cumbria LA14 CPN (Contact Mr Stuart Kloshold 01229 820611). Copies of the statement may be obtained from any of the above addresses.
Members of the public have until 20/12/1998 to make representations in relation to the application to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. These should be marked "project D/371/1998" and addressed to Mr Graham Cobb, Oil and Gas Directorate, Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS
NOTICE TO: Stephen Hongan
of parts unknown
A petition has been filed seeking: Commitment of minor child of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision can effect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child will be heard on 12-9-98 at 2:00 p.m. at 784 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct.
Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody will be heard on 11-12-98 at 9:00 a.m.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the TIMES a newspaper having a circulation in the city of London, England
Name of Judge: Hon. Chase T. Rogers
Signed Margaret Gosselin, Clerk
Date 11-4-98

No. 005658 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
BRITAX AUTOMARK LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11th November, 1998 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £50,002,000 to £8,944,325 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 16th November, 1998.
Dated the 20th day of November, 1998
Allen & Overy
One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE REVESTER OF SITES ACT 1987
The Bunyan School House in Cranfield in the County of Bedfordshire
WHEREAS:
(1) THE ST ALBANS DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE ("the Trustees") formerly held the land known as the School House, Covett Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire subject to the trusts contained in a conveyance dated 1st January 1866 and made between George Gardner Hatter (1) William Frederick Green (2) George Gardner Hatter William Fuller and George Coleman (3). The conveyance was made under the provisions of the School Sites Act 1841 and 1844 upon trust for use for the purposes of those Acts. On ceasing to be used for those purposes there was provision for Reverter of land.
(2) The land ceased to be used for those purposes and was sold. By virtue of Section 1 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 the Trustee now holds the net proceeds of sale upon trust for the persons who but for the Reverter of Sites Act would be entitled to the ownership of the land by virtue of its Reverter (the "Reverter Beneficiaries").
NOW the Trustee gives NOTICE as follows:
1. The Trustee proposes to apply to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under section 2 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 for a Scheme for the net proceeds of sale which will extinguish the rights of the Reverter Beneficiaries and require the Trustee to hold the said proceeds on trust for certain charitable purposes as specified in the Scheme.
2. Any Reverter Beneficiary who wishes to oppose the extinguishment of his rights should notify his claim in writing to The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance c/o Messrs Clayton, Bidwell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1HD within four months from today.

No. 006404 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
SOGEA PROPERTIES (UK) LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 9th day of November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £68,000,000 to £7,150,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard by the Companies Court Registrar at the Companies Court, Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on the 2nd day of December 1998.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors upon payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 20th day of November 1998
DLA Lupton Alsop of 101 Barbican Square, Manchester, M2 3DL
Ref: AHJ/AJC-697/476
Telephone: 0345 26 27 28
Solicitors for the above-named Company

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:
Telephone 0171 680 6578
Fax 0171 782 7930
Or Email
tnl.features@newsint.co.uk

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CENTREK LIMITED IN ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 26 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at Centrex, High Recall, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6EB on 9 December 1998 at 2.00 pm for the purposes mentioned in the Act.
Copies of the administrators' proposals are being sent to all known creditors. They are available to members, free of charge, upon receipt of a written request at the address below.
A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debt after deducting the value of his security as estimated by him.
Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following:
(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrator by 12 noon on the day before the meeting of the office of Ernst & Young, P O Box 61, Cloth Hall Court, 14 King Street, Leeds LS1 2JN. (b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrator.
R H Kelly and J D Howell
Joint Administrators
17 November 1998

GRE INTERNATIONAL PLC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at: The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA on: 15 December 1998 at 2.30 p.m. for the purposes provided for in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the Act.
Creditors should lodge proxies of their claims for voting purposes at Rogers Evans, 19 Renwick Place, Southampton SO15 2AQ before the meeting. Secured creditors (unless they surrender their security) should also include a statement giving details of their security, the date(s) on which it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Any creditor entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to do so either in person or by proxy. Complete proxy forms must be lodged at Rogers Evans, 19 Renwick Place, Southampton SO15 2AQ on the two working days prior to the meeting.
DATED THIS 5 NOVEMBER 1998
M JENKINS
DIRECTOR

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
KITES SERVICES LIMITED IN ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 25 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at Centrex, High Recall, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6EB on 9 December 1998 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in the Act.
Copies of the administrators' proposals are being sent to all known creditors. They are available to members, free of charge, upon receipt of a written request at the address below.
A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debt after deducting the value of his security as estimated by him.
Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following:
(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrator by 12 noon on the day before the meeting of the office of Ernst & Young, P O Box 61, Cloth Hall Court, 14 King Street, Leeds LS1 2JN. (b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrator.
R H Kelly and J D Howell
Joint Administrators
17 November 1998

No. 05641 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF CGU LINKED LIFE ASSURANCE LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 6 October 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England by The Northern Assurance Company Limited ("Northern") for an order under Part I of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 (as amended) ("the Act"):
(i) sanctioning a scheme ("the Scheme") for the transfer to CGU Linked Life Assurance Limited (formerly General Accident Linked Life Assurance Limited) ("CGU Linked Life") of the whole of the long term insurance business carried on by Northern in any member States (including jurisdictions which are to be treated as member States for the purposes of the Act), with the exception of all business reinsured under the reinsurance agreement dated 3 April 1990 between Northern and Commercial Union Life Assurance Company Limited ("COLAC"), under which Northern reinsures unit linked pensions business written by COLAC; and
(ii) making provision for related matters in accordance with paragraph 5 of the said Part I.
Copies of the Petition and of a report on the terms of the Scheme by an independent actuary, as required by paragraph 2(1) of the said Part I, may be inspected at each of the offices specified in the Schedule hereto during usual business hours for a period of at least 21 days beginning with the date of the first publication of this notice.
The Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Judge at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 18 January 1999 and any persons, including an employee of Northern or CGU Linked Life, who alleges that he would be adversely affected by the carrying out of the Scheme may appear at the hearing in person or by Counsel or solicitor advocate. Any person who intends to to appear, and any policyholder of Northern or CGU Linked Life who dissents from the Scheme but does not intend to appear, is asked to give notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons thereof, to the solicitors named below by 14 January 1999.
Copies of the documents specified above will be supplied by such solicitors as any person requiring them before the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of the prescribed charge.
20 November 1998
Linklaters & Paines (Ref: DBOH/VIMO), One Silk Street, London EC2Y 8HQ
Solicitors for Northern and CGU Linked Life

The Schedule
The Northern Assurance Company Limited
St Helen's
1 Undershaft
London EC3P 3DQ
CGU Linked Life Assurance Limited
2 Rougier Street
York YO90 1UU
CGU plc
Flitwaville
Perth
Scotland PH2 0NH
KPMG Alpen-Treuhand GmbH
Kolingasse 19
A-1090 Vienna
Austria
KPMG
Wolters Office Park
Rue Neerveld 101-103
B-1200 Brussels
Belgium
KPMG C Jespersen
Borups Alle 177
Copenhagen
Denmark
KPMG Widnel Oy Ab
Mannerheimintie 20B
FIN-00100 Helsinki
Finland
Fidal Paris at International
5, cours Valmy
92923 Paris La Defense
France
KPMG Deutsche Treuhand-Gesellschaft AG
Marie-Curie-Strasse 30
D-60439 Frankfurt/Main
Germany
KPMG
Regal House
Queensway
Gibraltar
KPMG Peat Marwick Kytheon
3, Stratigou Tombras Street
Agios Paraskevi
Athens GR-153 42
Greece
KPMG Endurskodun hf.
Vegmuli 3
108 Reykjavik
Iceland
KPMG Dublin
1 Stokes Place
St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Ireland
KPMG SpA
Via Vittor Pisani 25
20124 Milano
Italy
Dr Peter Spenger
Aktuelleraal Anstalt
Austrasse 27
FL - 9490 Vaduz
Liechtenstein
KPMG
31, Allee Scheffer
L-2520 Luxembourg
KPMG Accountants NV.
KPMG Gebouw
Burgemeester Rijnderslaan 10
1185 MC Amstelveen
Netherlands
KMG
Bryggeveien 12
0667 Oslo
Norway
KPMG
Rotilio Monumental
Avenida Praia da Vitoria
71-A-11°1050 Lisboa
Portugal
KPMG Peat Marwick
Edificio ipsa Bisaga
Paseo de la Castellana, 95
28046 Madrid
Spain
KPMG Redline AB
Tegelbacken 4A
SE-111 52 Stockholm
Sweden

Aylesbury cut out for title

Non-League Football
By Walter Gammie

THE life-sized cardboard cutout of Gary Crawshaw that greets shoppers at the Friars Square Centre is clear evidence that Aylesbury United, the leaders of the Ryman League, are winning back the hearts and minds of the Buckinghamshire town.

Recent times haven't been so happy. Aylesbury spent a year in administration and only avoided losing their premier division place on goal difference last season.

The revival began when Bill Carroll, a director, took over as chairman and cleared the club of its debts. In the summer, he appointed Bob Dowie, a former player, as manager. Dowie makes no secret of his ambitions and is happy for Dave Anderson and Peter Lawrence, his assistants, to share the coaching load. Aylesbury don't have any complaints so far.

Dowie kept four players, Lee Harvey, Jermaine Darlington, Mark Jones and Kevin Gallagher from the squad collected by Steve Ketteridge, his predecessor, and brought three more from Harrow — Jason Court, Steve Butler and Ian Rutherford. He also recruited Crawshaw, Richard Wilmott, Jason Soloman, from Stevenage Borough, Warren Kelly, from Rushden and Diamonds, and Corey Browne and Cliff Hercules, from Slough Town.

Hercules was reunited with the club with whom he had been synonymous. He reached 600 appearances in a 2-1 win at Sutton United a fortnight ago, and is ten short of 300 goals — even though at 36 he now plays in the centre of defence. "He's tremendous," Dowie said. "He approaches every game as if it's his first."

Crawshaw, who scored against Newcastle United in the FA Cup last season, needed little persuasion to join Aylesbury. "I knew Bob when I played with him at Hendon," Crawshaw said. "I knew he was a good coach and was impressed with what he said."

How does he like himself in cardboard? "I've got my foot on the ball, hand on the hip and I'm holding a poster giving the details of our next match," he said. "The only thing is, he's probably better looking than me."

Henry says he wants to join Arsenal

THIERRY HENRY, the AS Monaco and France striker, has revealed his desire to join Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership champions. This is likely to please Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who is keen to strengthen his forward line.

Henry, 21, said yesterday: "They are the club of my dreams and I would like to play there." He made his debut for Monaco when Wenger managed the club, and played in six of France's seven matches in the World Cup finals.

Michael Stensgaard, the FC Copenhagen and former Liverpool goalkeeper, is expected to join Southampton at the end of this month.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Greater London Leopards 90 Birmingham Bullets 88; Manchester Giants 67 Thames Valley Tigers 100; Sheffield Sharks 67 Derby Storm 78

FOOTBALL

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Official correction: Brighton 2 Fulham 0

Wednesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 2 Czech Republic 0; Georgia 3 Estonia 1 (in Tbilisi); Egypt 1 Norway 1 (in Cairo); Luxembourg 0 Belgium 0 (in Luxembourg); Hungary 2 Switzerland 0 (in Budapest); Germany 1 Holland 1 (in Gelsenkirchen); Italy 2 Spain 2 (in Salerno); Portugal 2 Israel 0 (in Setubal); Brazil 5 Russia 1 (in Fortaleza).
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group two: Albania 0 Greece 0. **Qualifying group three:** N Ireland 2 Moldova 2. **Qualifying group six:** San Marino 0 Cyprus 1. **Qualifying group eight:** Malta 1 Macedonia 2; Yugoslavia 1 Ireland 0
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group eight: Yugoslavia 1 Ireland 1. **Qualifying group nine:** Scotland 2 Belgium 2
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Portugal 3 Wales 0
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Belper Town 0 Eastwood Town 3, Bradford PA 1 Stocksbridge PS 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Berkhamsted 1 Barton 1. **Second division:** Harlow 2 Banstead 1
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Stockport 2 Burnley 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brentford 4 Oxford 2; Charlton 1 Bournemouth 0; Colchester 1 Wycombe 1, Gillingham 1 Peterborough 1, Swindon 1 Brighton 1
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa 4 Birmingham 0, Leeds 0 Liverpool 0. **First division:** Bolton 1 Port Vale 5, Middlesbrough 1 Grimsby 0. **Second division:** Blackpool 1 Wrexham 3, Lincoln 1 Newcastle 3, Scarborough 1 Rotherham 2; Shrewsbury 2 Bradford 2. **Third division:** Bury 0 Walsall 2, Scunthorpe 2 Hull 2, Wigan 0 Darlington 3.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Sheffield 1 Glapwell 0
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Penrith 1 Seaham Red Star 3
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Carterton 3 Fairford 1; EFC Cheltenham 1 Cirencester Academy 0; Highworth 0 Tuffley 2; Kintbury 1 Bicester 1, Swindon Supermarine 4 Wantage 1
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Mer KA 0 Handrahan Timbers 0.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND LEAGUE: Invitation Cup: Second round: Oadby 0 Bilston Community College 3
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe Port 3 Ipswich 1
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brook House 0 Potters Bar 0
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE CUP: First round: Curzon Ashton 0 St Helens 2.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First round replay: Man City 2 Chester 0. **Second round:** Cambridge Utd 0 Swansea 0, Stoke 0 Oldham 0
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: VCD 0 Canterbury 0

GOLF

MIYAZAKI, Japan: Dunlop Phoenix tournament: Leading first-round scores (Japan unless stated). **68:** R Kawagishi **67:** Y Kaneko **68:** K Yokoo, T Taniguchi, L Westwood (GB), T Nakajima, E Ely (SA) **69:** Chen Tze-chung (Taiwan), N Ozaki, D Ishii (US), E Miyoguchi, P Teravainen (US), J Sluman (US), F Funk (US) **70:** H Tanaka, S Maruyama, K Hocokawa, H Mashau, K Matsu, Yeh Chang-ing (Taiwan), Y Yamamoto, P Senior (Aus), J M Olazábal (Sp), O Clarke (GB), Zhang Lianwei (China), G Marsh (Aus).
AUCKLAND: World Cup of Golf: Leading first-round scores: 134: Japan (Y Imano 64, M Kusakabe 70) 137: South Africa (D Frost 66, N Henning 71) 138: Sweden (P Sjoland 68, M Gronberg 70), Australia (P O'Malley 69, R Green 69) 139: Italy (C Rocca 65, M Fionoli 74), Zimbabwe (M McNulty 67, A Johnstone 72), Ireland (P McGinley 67, P Hannigan 72) 140: United States (J Daly 70, S Verplank 70) Chile (R MacKenzie 68, G Encina 72), Canada (I Luggani 69, R Gibson 71) 141: France (T Level 69, J Van de Velde 72), England (N Faldo 68, D Carter 73) Other scores: 142: Wales (I Woosnam 70, P Price 72), Scotland (A Coltart 70, C Montgomerie 72)
HAWAII: PGA Grand Slam of Golf match-play tournament: Championship match: T Woods (US) bt V Singh (Fiji) 2 up. **Third-place match:** L Janssen (US) bt M O'Meara (US) 1 up

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Washington 4 Toronto 1, Edmonton 2 Detroit 6, Phoenix 4 Vancouver 2, Anaheim 3 New York Rangers 1, San Jose 5 Los Angeles 4

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land Open: Second round: S Virgona bt J Willcocks 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, R Fahey bt M Eadie 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, N Wood bt M Pendrigh 6-0, 6-5, 6-4, R Gunn bt A Lyons 6-2, 6-4, 6-1, C Bray bt J Prenn 6-0, 6-3, 6-2. **Quarter-finals:** M Gooding bt J Malo 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, J Snow bt Wood 6-5, 5-6, 5-6, 6-4, 6-1

RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland 10 Ireland 17 (at Partick Thistle)

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP: European qualifying zone: Pool one: Romania 27 Georgia 23 (at Lansdowne Road). **Pool two:** Italy 67 Netherlands 7 (at Huddersfield)
A INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales 19 Argentina 28 (at Pontypridd)
TOUR MATCH: Glasgow 15 New Zealand Maoris 53
CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 38 Major R V Stanleys XV 22

SNOOKER

BOURNEMOUTH: Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship: First round (England unless stated): P Doherty (Ire) bt J Lardner (Scot) 9-0; M Campbell (Scot) leads S Hendry (Scot) 8-0; R Lowler leads J Burnett (Scot) 5-3; O Hann (Aus) bt B Snaddon (Scot) 9-3. **Second round:** M Couch bt M Fu (HK) 9-6; M Stevens (Wales) bt S Lee 9-6; M Williams (Wales) bt O Dale (Wales) 9-4; M Holt bt G Doll (Scot) 9-1; J White leads P Davies (Wales) 7-1; T Murphy (N Ire) bt L Richardson 9-3

SQUASH

CAIRO: Heliopolis Open: Quarter-finals: P Nicol (Scot) bt A Baraka (Egypt) 9-15, 15-10, 15-9, 10-15, 15-10; O Jenson (Aus) bt A Hill (Aus) 15-11, 15-6, 15-6; S Parke (Eng) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-8, 15-3, 17-16; J Power (Can) bt P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 15-8, 15-13

TENNIS

HARTFORD, Connecticut: World doubles championship: Round-robin: M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt S Stolle (Aus) and C Suk (Cz) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; J Eltingh and P Haarhuis (Holl) bt E Ferreira (SA) and R Leach (US) 6-4, 6-4; D Johnson and F Montana (US) bt M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; O Delaitre and F Santoro (Fr) bt M Woodforde and T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4
NEW YORK: WTA Chase championship: First round: M Seles (US) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-4, 6-3; L Davenport (US) bt S Testud (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 6-0.
TELFORD: British national championships: Men: Second round: D Sapsford (Surrey) bt P Hand (Berks) 7-6, 6-0; T Spinks (Norfolk) bt A Parmar (Hants) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; M Lee (Sussex) bt G Henderson (Yorks) 6-2, 6-1; M Hilton (Cheshire) bt C Bennett (Hereford and Worcs) 7-5, 7-6. **Women: Quarter-finals:** S Smith (Essex) bt A Tordoff (Kent) 6-4, 6-2; J Ward (Middx) bt L Ahl (Devon) 6-2, 6-2; L Latimer (Warwicks) bt L Woodroffe (Surrey) 6-2, 7-5; J Pullin (Sussex) bt L Perkins (Dur and Cleve) 6-2, 7-5.

VOLLEYBALL

MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Group G (in Hiroshima): Cuba bt Canada 3-1 (15-10, 10-15, 15-12, 15-9); Bulgaria bt Argentina 3-2 (15-8, 16-17, 15-7, 10-15, 15-9); Brazil bt South Korea 3-0 (15-13, 15-5, 15-9); Spain bt Japan 3-2 (15-5, 13-15, 15-8, 11-15, 15-12). **Group H** (in Chiba): Yugoslavia bt Greece 3-1 (11-15, 15-3, 15-9, 15-5); Russia bt China 3-1 (15-8, 16-17, 17-16, 15-9), 11-15, 15-3, 15-9, 15-5); Holland bt Ukraine 3-1 (14-16, 15-11, 15-8, 16-14); Italy bt United States 3-0 (15-6, 15-2, 15-12)

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TENNIS

Absence of Britain's elite fails to deter LTA

By Julian Muscat, tennis correspondent

THE national championships represent the horns of a greater dilemma for the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). A low-key affair for the absence of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, the championships at Telford this week appear marooned in midstream.

In that sense, the LTA and the national championships confront the same conundrum. Old-fashioned traditions jostle with the need for a more commercial approach ahead of the new century. The LTA has been forced to decide whether the virtues of camaraderie and kinship outweigh the cost (£165,000) of staging an event shorn of Britain's best players.

Modern convention dictates that a choice must be made. Should the tournament be seriously promoted to the public, or should the LTA bear the financial burden in its oft-caricatured role as the benevolent grandparent? The latter option is one it can well afford — even if the concept rests uneasily with an association increasingly sensitive to the business ethic. The irony is that this is one instance where the LTA's largesse is well directed.

"We are satisfied that investment in the national championships provides us with the tennis return we're looking for," John Crowther, the LTA chief executive, said. "In 12 months we have cut the costs of staging the event by £165,000, and we now believe we are getting value for money."

Of the two distinct components within these national championships, the more visual element is actually the less important. The argument whether British players should compete among themselves for prize-money of £90,000 is of secondary importance. More enduring images from this week will be the coming together of players, coaches and administrators all striving to improve standards.

The on-court action this year, particularly among men, has emphasised just how much room for improvement exists. It is commonly agreed that the world status of Henman and Rusedski militates against them competing. This is a pity: their presence would lend a totally different complexion to a men's singles championships devoid of much significance.

Their absence, which explains the lack of a front-line sponsor this year, also serves to underline the paucity of talent beneath them. That Paul Robinson, a qualifier from Northamptonshire, could first beat David Sherwood, a recent national junior champion, then account for Andrew Richardson, touted as a world top-100 prospect 12 months ago, makes a sorry testament.

Sherwood has often frustrated and Richardson's projected rise collapsed when he lost all motivation after his first-round exit from Wimbledon in June. He is only just returning to competitive tennis.

Richardson's predicament is symptomatic of the malaise afflicting British tennis. A Bisham Abbey graduate, Richardson, 25, has received considerable LTA funding. The notion that he could take a three-month sabbatical would have been untenable but for that support.

LTA critics maintain that his disillusionment reflects the fact that he has been financially cossetted for too long. Equally pertinent is the argument that Britain can ill-afford to let Richardson's talent fall away. He may yet revive to provide the badly-needed third singles string to Britain's Davis Cup bow.

On the face of it, there are reasons aplenty to question the worth of the national championships. Poor crowds and plenty of unsold tickets betray an apathetic public. And the distribution of £90,000 in prize-money probably exceeds the LTA's remit to provide opportunities for British players already greatly advantaged by the summer grass-court season.

Yet while domestic merit matters little in the global context of tennis, one of Britain's failures to produce greater numbers of world-class players is down to the uncompetitive nature of the game in this country. Any curtailment of this platform would further erode competitive opportunities for Britain's juniors at a time when a greater number is needed.

Results, page 52

ALEX LIVESEY/ALLSPORT

Danny Sapsford on his way to victory over Paul Hand yesterday in the second round of the national championships

Poor service is costly for Kournikova

From Alix Ramsay in New York

IT IS a shame about Anna Kournikova. She is extremely famous, very rich and rather good at tennis. It is just that she cannot win matches.

In her present form, hitting the ball in court is more than she can manage and, late on Wednesday night, she fell to an ailing Monica Seles 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the Chase Championships. It was another staggering display of ineptitude on the Russian's part, another to add to the tally of disasters she has been suffering lately.

In the 68 minutes it took to fall apart, Kournikova served 17 double faults. Not that this should have come as any surprise. In Zurich she equalled that number; in Moscow she went five better, bringing her total of double faults for the past three matches to 56.

Even when she was playing an exhibition with Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario in Cairo three weeks ago, she startled the Spaniard by hitting the pyramids more often than she hit the service line.

It is not as if the faults are minor or even regular. At times the service is leathered towards the baseline, at others it struggles to limp towards the net. Once the errors set in the confidence drains from Kournikova visibly. She and everyone watching fears that the next service will be a double — and they are usually right.

The real pity is that the rest of her game is in pretty good shape. Some of her ground strokes were positively venomous and she was more than happy to show off her full repertoire of shots but without any semblance of a service, she was always a sitting target. She broke Seles four times but was broken herself six times. Even suffering from a virus that has meant she has not eaten since Sunday, Seles simply could not refuse this invitation.

The rumblings from the locker-room are that Pavel Slozil, Kournikova's coach, may soon be out of a job. That seems a little unfair as he has helped his charge to achieve everything that she set out to do this year.

She had an excellent start to the season, reaching the final of the Lipton championships, beating Martina Hingis in Berlin and going on to qualify for this event. Kournikova has more than enough talent to overcome her present problems and now, on holiday until January, she can do just that in private.

Maybe a few days off will allow her to find a shirt that fits. Wednesday's offering was obviously too small, revealing yards of midriff every time she moved. It was a good job she was so evenly tanned or she really would have been embarrassed.

Lindsay Davenport was almost embarrassed by Sandrine Testud and her gammy leg on Wednesday. Feeling tentative and nervous, the world No 1 seemed at a loss to know what to do next against her injured opponent, letting slip a lead in the first two sets.

Testud was playing well and making the most of her chances until she lost the momentum in the second-set tie-break, letting Davenport through 4-6, 7-6, 6-0.

Will to win means no more Mr Nice Guy

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Union Commentary

For all the topsy-turvy emotions that came in the wake of Wales's dramatic performance last weekend, nobody knew quite what to make of it or how properly to respond, such was the magnitude of the surprise. It is Graham Henry's observation that Wales "needs to grow up, to mature; they need to know how to win". That should now concentrate the mind.

The observation by the Wales coach is not new but all the better for being said by, shall we say, an outsider. The other countries of the Five Nations ought to lend an ear for they, too, might benefit.

True competition has presented a dilemma to most sportsmen in team games in this country. There has always been an ambivalence about winning, how it should be achieved and how much should it mean to do so. We like to instil the sensation that rugby union, for instance, should be fun, to be enjoyed. Which, of course, is true enough. We also like to promote the idea that rugby is "only a game", which again, of course, is true.

The trouble is that, if these little conceits are repeated often enough, they begin to sound too much like an excuse, a contrivance to hide a weakness. We lack the sliver of ice.

Then there is the mood, pervasive over the decades, that we in these islands cannot be seen to want to win too much. Certainly we have no wish, or at least a reluctance, to admit to a strong desire to win. This may have something to do with good manners and wishing to avoid any sense of ostentation: to present a modest, unassuming face.

There is, it might further be said, almost an aristocratic air of detachment that, to a large degree, lay at the heart of amateurism in the first place. Take rugby: we get the game over with so that, as good companions, we can settle down to a good dinner. The carefree stance of the sporting dilettante, though, appeals to us still.

> 'Wales would have liked to have won; South Africa demanded it'

Or else we perpetuate the erroneous notion that nice guys don't win and that, given the choice, we would prefer to be nice guys. Niceness and winning are not mutually exclusive and you do not have to behave boorishly to be a winner. On the other hand, this reluctance may be interpreted simply as the fear of failure. We cannot be seen to lose the sense of our own dignity. The core of our sporting instinct portrays a theme that winning is a desirable consequence but, really, not essential.

These attitudes may no longer be true. Taken singly, not one of them may be thought significant, but collectively it is where our attitude to sport has derived. This inheritance remains with us. The point was made forcibly once more at Wembley last Saturday when South Africa who, like New Zealand and Australia, do not carry any doubtful baggage from the past, were able to dig deep into their resolve and mental need to win to secure a victory at the last. The difference lay in that Wales would have liked to have won; South Africa demanded it.

This was a Welsh performance bordering on the heroic, but it lacked the instinct to drive the point home. Teams such as the Springboks, the All Blacks and, latterly, the Wallabies do not need to think about the will to win. It is bred within them. Once the whistle blows, the chase is on. It should go without saying that the main point of any competition, be it a board game or when you are contemplating losing your shirt on a horse, is to win.

It is what Henry means when he says that the Wales team "needs to grow up". To be the "nearly" men — brave and courageous players who fail — is not good enough, but it is bred in our culture. Wales' sinking feeling will be made the more poignant and telling by the fact that they lost the match in the closing stages when for most of the 80 minutes they had held the lead.

The age of Geoff Cooke and Will Carling, for England, is the most recent of very few examples of a team from these islands having acquired the ice needed for a prolonged period of success at the highest level. The jury, however, is out on the question of whether this has signalled a permanent change within England's rugby culture or whether this was by and large due, as with Wales in the 1970s, to the collection of marvellous players emerging at the same time.

Consider how the mask slipped last season when, at Old Trafford, the England players ran triumphantly around the pitch. This lap of honour was at the end of a fixture against the All Blacks that they had not won. This hardly suggests that the new generation of players has inherited the winning culture.

Are they too comfortable with second best? With New Zealanders involved in the coaching of three of the four home nations, excluding Scotland, will we see a change?

Sullivan injury blow

ANTHONY SULLIVAN, who made his Wales A debut in the 28-19 defeat by Argentina on Wednesday and scored his team's only try, will be out for the next three weeks (David Hands writes).

A scan yesterday revealed damage to his pectoral muscles so the St Helens rugby league wing, on loan to Cardiff for three months, must wait to build upon a favourable early impression in rugby union.

"I have never had an injury like this," Sullivan, who will be available — if required — for the Five Nations Championship next February, said. "I just hope it's not too long before I come back and play."

Meanwhile Byron Hayward, his A-team colleague, expressed his dismay that Ebbw Vale have become the latest club to seek financial assistance to survive.

The beaten cup finalists last season have put their players up for sale, and Hayward said: "We are not jumping ship, we are being pushed. What we built up in four years has taken four weeks to go down the pan."

It has been suggested that Ebbw Vale would not be one of the four big clubs that the Welsh Rugby Union believes to be the way forward for the game. The principle of four "super clubs", however, is compromised by the independent stance taken by Cardiff and Swansea, which has set them at odds with the union.

Desperate Scotland look south for winning combination

Mark Souster on brothers who left New Zealand in search of success

Ian McGeechan once described New Zealanders as Scotsmen who have learned to win. It is not difficult to make the connection. There is a natural affinity between the two nations and the cultural and historical links remain strong to this day. In rugby terms, however, Scotland have always marched in New Zealand's shadow, which is why they must hope that John Leslie, the son of a former All Black captain, will bring with him some of that winning habit on his debut for his newly-adopted country against South Africa at Murrayfield tomorrow.

By any standards his is a meteoric rise; Leslie, an inside centre, has been in Scotland barely a fortnight and has played only one game for Glasgow Caledonians, albeit against South Africa, last week. A typically laid-back character in the mould of many New Zealanders, even he is bewildered at the pace of events. "I didn't expect this. I feel very fortunate to be involved. I want to show the boys my worth," he said.

The occasion will be made even more sweet by the inclusion of Martin, his younger brother by 11 months, on the replacements' bench, and the presence in the stands of their proud father, Andy, who led New Zealand in the 1970s. It will be the first time the boys have been involved in the same team since primary school in Wellington.

They qualify by dint of a paternal grandfather from Linlithgow. It is not the first time that Scotland has looked south for inspiration. That they have done so again in such haste is indicative of the present state of the game in Scotland. Sean Lineen set the precedent in the 1980s to considerable acclaim and, in the intervening years, a steady trickle followed, many of an indifferent quality, who were accused of seeking an "easy" cap.

In Leslie's case that is palpably not so. His pedigree and credentials are impeccable. John has played more than 120 times for Otago, whom he helped to victory in the National Provincial championship (NPC) final against Waikato last month. He was a member of the Otago side that beat South Africa in 1994, while 32 appearances for Otago Highlanders in the Super 12 are also on his CV — but not, alas, a full New Zealand cap. That omission surprises many, among them Christian Stewart, his opponent tomorrow and a player also making his international debut.

"John was the most underestimated centre in Super 12," Stewart said. "I am really surprised he is not an All Black because he is very difficult to play against. Traditionally, New Zealand have looked for a crash ball first five eight. He offers a lot more. For a start, he doesn't die with the ball." Bobby Skinstad, who also starts for his first full game for South Africa, said: "In the NPC, he was Otago."

Leslie remains philosophical about being overlooked, but admits it was a factor in his acceptance of an offer from the Scottish Rugby Union this summer. It was not, however, the only reason. "I felt I had been playing well, but I wasn't picked so I came to the decision that I would get on with my life. I enjoy rugby, but there a lot of other things in life. I wanted to see the world so why not let rugby take you there?"

In reality, he will only be in Scotland until March, when he is due to take up a three-year contract with Sanix, the Japanese club. Whether he does remains to be seen, but for now, his thoughts are focused only on South Africa. "It will be a huge task, but you have to believe in yourself. No one can remain unbeaten forever."

Martin Leslie, left, and his brother, John, take a break from training with the Scotland squad yesterday

ATHLETICS: LONDON AND PARIS COMPETE TO HOST 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Edmonton's gain is boost for Britain

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

GREAT Britain's bid to bring the 2003 world championships to Wembley was given impetus yesterday when the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) chose Edmonton, Canada, to host the 2001 event. If the 2001 championships had been awarded to Paris, the odds would have shifted towards the 2003 event going outside Europe.

Lobbying for Britain to host the world's third biggest sporting event — only the football World Cup and Olympic Games command greater global interest — will intensify this weekend. David Hemery, who was installed on Tuesday as the president of Athletics UK, will lead a British delegation to Monte Carlo, where the IAAF stages its end-of-year awards dinner on Sunday.

"This leaves London in the running," an IAAF spokesman said after it was revealed that Edmonton would become only the second non-European host of championships, first held in 1983. Since Tokyo hosted in 1991, they have been staged in Stuttgart (1993), Gothenburg (1995) and Athens (1997). Seville will host the event next year.

The pressure that had been mounting on the IAAF to take the championships outside Europe has now, to the relief of British officials, been eased. "This is good news for us," Jayne Pearce, the spokeswoman for British athletics, said last night.

The world championships at Wembley in 2003 would be the most important athletics event staged in Britain since the 1948 Olympic Games, and of more global interest than any sports event in this country since the 1966 football World Cup. Financial backing through National Lottery funding has been agreed in principle by the UK and English sports councils and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, has put Government support into motion.

Paris made only a half-hearted attempt to win the nomination for the 2001 championships, using it as a marker for 2003. The French capital is likely to be the strongest rival for London, although Berlin could be a late runner. A decision on the venue for 2003 is expected in April.

☐ The IAAF also announced yesterday that Lisbon would stage the 2001 world indoor championships.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ireland stands by drugs case decision

■ **RUGBY UNION:** The Irish Rugby Football Union has closed the book on the drug allegations of which two players were accused last month. They have accepted the verdict of an independent tribunal, chaired by Chief Justice Tom Finlay, that said that in the case of one, un-named player, there was no case to answer and that the other, an under-21 player, should be reprimanded only.

The senior player was reported by the British Sports Council after a Five Nations Championship match, but the tribunal found that he was taking a prescribed substance for genuine reasons. However, Tom Tierney, the Garryowen and Munster scrum half, was found, after being tested at an under-21 international against France last March, to have taken unintentionally ephedrine, a prohibited substance.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Thames Valley Tigers, the Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup holders, have been drawn against Sheffield Sharks in the semi-finals. The BBC hope to screen the second leg live on *Grandstand* on December 20. Leopards, the winners in 1997, face Newcastle Eagles in the other semi-final.
SEMI-FINALS: Thames Valley Tigers v Sheffield Sharks (Dec 9, TBA). Leopards v Newcastle Eagles (Dec 16, Dec 23)

■ **CRICKET:** *Wisden*, the sport's bible, launched its first Australian edition by naming Belinda Clark as Australian Cricketer of the Year. Clark, captain of the national women's team, won the award ahead of the entire Australia men's team. Her recent achievements include captaining the winning Ashes and World Cup teams. In the latter, she was player of the series and set a world record score of 229 not out in a one-day international.

■ **SQUASH:** The chances of the World Open title coming to Britain for the first time improved yesterday when Jansher Khan, the eight-times winner, withdrew for the second year in succession. Peter Nicol, of Scotland, is top seed for the event in Qatar later this month.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Eric Ashton, the former Wigan and Great Britain captain, was honoured for his 45 years in the game when he received the Rugby League Writers' Association merit award.

GOLF

Hurley fit for new school test

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN SAN ROQUE, SPAIN

IF THE qualifying school is a school of hard knocks, then few have had a harder or more decisive knock than Simon Hurley. One stroke with a mid-iron during a tournament in Spain early in 1996 resulted in so much damage to his arm that the Bristol professional has hardly played golf since.

Still, there are bad knocks and calamitous ones, and the moment that Hurley's club collided with what he thought was a pebble on a course in Tarragona was definitely one of the former. Despite having had three operations on his elbow, tendons and wrist, and being limited to less than three months' golf in nearly three years, Hurley, 34, is in the thick of it at the qualifying school.

After rounds of 68 at Sotogrande and 70 at San Roque he is on 138, six under par, and in joint third place. Among those in his wake are Paul Way, Steven Richardson, Wayne Riley, Richard Boxall, Mac O'Grady and Justin Rose.

Funny old game, golf. From the start, the beginner hears other golfers saying: "Practice makes perfect." Professionals and top amateurs use phrases such as "muscle memory", "repetitive action" and "no inspiration without perspiration". And here is a man who has hit fewer balls in the past 1,000 days than any of his rivals have in the past one.

Clearly, Hurley is talented. In fact, he is so talented that when he played with his left arm only during recuperation he reached a handicap of low single figures. As journalists gathered to interview him yesterday and a photographer waited, Hurley's face bore a wry smile at the incongruity of it all. "There is a long way to go yet," he said. "I just hope that people will still want to talk to me and take my picture on Monday."

The Hurleys are a well-known family in Bristol. Hurley Sr got down to a handicap of three within 12 months of taking up golf, but quickly found himself preoccupied with the garage he owns. Martin, his elder son, and Simon attended Bristol Grammar School, where Martin had the choice of doing Greek or geography at O level. He chose Greek and went on to read Classics at New College, Oxford.

"Simon is as bright as me," Martin said of the brother whose bag he is carrying this week. "It is just that he chose to play golf." Simon got nine O levels, including Latin, which suggests that he and his brother form the most academically gifted player-caddie partnership here.

Simon Hurley played amateur golf while running a petrol station until his money ran out. "It took time before I realised that the better I did as an amateur, the more it cost me," he said. "In one English Amateur I got through more rounds than I expected. I couldn't afford my accommodation so I spent the last two nights before I got knocked out sleeping in my car."

At 22 he turned professional and for most years since has attended the school in an attempt to win his card. Most years he has failed. He has so little money that he lives at home and does not own a car. The vehicle that he and Martin drove to Spain was "half-inched" from his father's garage. "I'm quite good at half-inching and even better at forgetting to give the keys back," Hurley said.

A 34-year-old who still lives at home sounds like a boy who will not grow up. "As long as I can afford to play golf then I want to — at least until there is a job I can do that will pay me well," he said. "I am the only one it is hurting. I would rather do something I enjoy. Everyone in sport wants to see what they can do. So do I." In Spain so far he has done rather well.

Hurley: in contention

LEADING QUALIFYING SCHOOL SCORES

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: R Drummond 70, 67; H Nystrom (Swe) 66, 71. 138: S Hurley 68, 70; P Magnehrant (Swe) 69, 69. 139: F Valera (Sp) 66, 73; J Nutt (Ven) 69, 70. 140: I Hutchings 72, 68; G Ogilvy (Aus) 69, 71; C Rodiles (Sp) 68, 72. 141: E Canonica (It) 75, 66; R-J Derksen (Holl) 70, 71; C Watts 72, 69; J Wade (Aus) 74, 67; C Monasterio (Arg) 73, 68; B Dredge 71, 70. 142: A Bonhomme (Aus) 67, 75; G J Brand 72, 70; P Way 70, 72; A McLardy (SA) 72, 70; S Talbot (Can) 73, 69; M Lundberg (Swe) 69, 73; J Selberg (Swe) 70, 72; A Binaghi (It) 71, 71. 143: S Richardson 73, 70; J Anull (Sp) 71, 72; J Quiroz (Sp) 71, 72; A McLean 78, 65; J Rystrom (Swe) 74, 69; M King 74, 69; J Caxous (Fr) 70, 73. 144: B Hallhorsson (Ice) 76, 74; H Bjornstad (Nor) 73, 71; R Bain 76, 68; J Robinson 75, 69; S Wakefield 70, 74; B Telleria (Fr) 76, 68; P Wardell 72, 72; R Benitez (Sp) 73, 71. 145: P Linhart (Sp) 72, 73; O Borrego (Sp) 74, 71; E Little 72, 73; M Welch 75, 70; J Aker (Swe) 73, 72; O Park 73, 72; M Pilkington 73, 72; O Sellberg (Swe) 76, 69; A Sello (Sp) 73, 72; B Nelson (US) 73, 72; M Reale (It) 73, 72; A Hansen (Den) 73, 72; G Rojas (Arg) 71, 74. 146: W Riley (Aus) 70, 76; R Boxall 74, 72; O Nousiainc (Fr) 72, 74; I Gilner (Sp) 73, 73, K Storgaard (Den) 74, 72; K Brink (Swe) 72, 74; K Jones 72, 74; O Lynn 78, 68; H P Truel (Ger) 76, 70; N Ludwell 75, 71; S Johnson (US) 73, 73; A Sobrinho (Por) 74, 72; R Lee 76, 70; N Roderick 77, 69; J M Carriles (Sp) 73, 73; M Backhausen (Den) 73, 73; M Brier (Austria) 75, 71; P Winston 74, 72; E Rawlings 73, 73; M Sanfi (It) 74, 72; C Larrain (Ven) 70, 76; S Hurd 73, 73; S Corte-Real (Por) 74, 72. Other score: 151: J Rose 76, 73.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Caister, of the Benson McGarvey Henderson team, takes his time over a putt

McGarvey's rivals left with food for thought

FROM MEL WEBB IN LA MANGA

THE day's play was over; they had wound down by partaking of lunch at one of the restaurants that line the harbour of a nearby fishing village before returning to see if the score they had set much earlier in the day was still good enough to lead. It was; at last, with relief, they could smile again.

The lead after the first round of the national final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge at the La Manga Club yesterday was taken by Benson McGarvey Henderson, a Nottingham-based firm of independent financial advisers. Their experience could not have been more dissimilar than when they won their regional final last month.

The team kept everybody waiting until the last possible moment in the East Midlands event at Forest Pines before claiming their place at La Manga. Then, they were the final team on the course and were thus spared the pain of waiting and hoping.

This time around, a combination of poetic justice and the luck of the draw created unbearable mental anguish for the foursome.

It was just after 8.30 on a sunlit, but breezy morning that Benson McGarvey Henderson became the first team of the 14 playing here to set foot on the South Course. Some 4½ hours and 18 holes later, they had finished with 84 Stableford points and were left facing a two-hour wait before their half-way lead could be confirmed.

McGarvey, the captain, probably did the right thing in whisking his men off to lunch: if they had lingered, the agony might have been too much for them to cope with.

The score assembled by McGarvey and his three teammates, Trevor Coupe, Mark Caister and Phil Shelton, looked good when they went through the turn with 40 points to their name and by the time they had played 15 holes they had added a further 31, including a seven-point haul on the 15th. Caister led the way with a wonderful three-wood from 230 yards to 12ft and a single putt for a nett eagle and four points and Shelton, so steady all day, holed a 6ft putt for nett birdie and three.

The honour of going out last today was beckoning, and although they scored only three points on the tough par-three 17th — Coupe the saviour with a five-wood tee shot to 20ft — they finished with flags flying and drums beating a triumphant tattoo with six points on the home hole. It was that, and the seven they had posted on the 15th, that gave them a two-point lead over Hatch End Fruit, with Xtra-vision and Higar Ultimate a further two points adrift.

All four members of the leading team had moments when they stepped forward and played brief solos, but by and large this was a team effort in which success depended more on elegant harmony than individual brilliance. If they produce more of the same today, the song they will have sung will bring the house down.

SCORES: 84: Benson McGarvey Henderson. 82: Hatch End Fruit Ltd. 80: Xtra-vision; Higar Ultimate. 79: Milton Keynes and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce. 78: Wooden Spoon Society. 75: Aston Clinton Dental Partnership; Northern Ireland Electricity plc. 74: Interfocus. 73: Ferrans Piston Service Ltd. 72: Telra Laval. 68: British Steel Distribution; Vardon Health and Fitness. 67: Wills Corroon Corporate.

Westwood and Els make solid progress

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

LEE WESTWOOD and Ernie Els, an Anglo-South African duo who could generate a fair bit of scrummaging power between them, were limbering up for an encounter of a less bruising kind after both scored 68, three under par, in the first round of the Dunlop Phoenix tournament yesterday.

The two towering talents were handily placed two shots behind the leader, Ryoken "Ricky" Kawagishi, a chunky Japanese whose 66 featured five birdies, an eagle and 28 putts. Darren Clarke, an Irishman who also has some beef to put behind the ball, spoilt a good day's play with a bogey six at the last for a disappointing 70, a finish replicated by José Maria Olazábal, his Ryder Cup colleague.

Since Westwood was seven shots behind the leader after the first round of last week's event, which he went on to win, he was quite content. "It wasn't pretty but I got it round," he said. "Now it's back to the range to work it out again." Even so, he drove well enough and bagged five birdies, three of them in the last seven holes.

At the last, a par five of 525 yards, where Clarke had 230 yards to the green but blocked his second shot with a three-wood into the black pines that line the fairways, Westwood did not even consider going for it. He laid up with a three-iron, then hit a lob wedge to three feet from 70 yards and holed the putt.

Els eased round without a bogey. He holed from four feet for a birdie four at the seventh, from two inches for a birdie three at the eighth and from six feet for a birdie two at the 11th.

☐ Nick Faldo led England to a solid start at the World Cup of Golf with a first round four-under-par 68 in New Zealand. David Carter's one-over 73 left the team score at three under — seven strokes adrift of Japan, the leaders.

Answers from page 50

HYGRIC
(c) Relating to water or moisture. From the Greek *hygros*, moist.

NASTALIK
(b) A Persian cursive script, characterised by rounded forms and elongated horizontal strokes. The Arabic means "hanging writing".

NASUTUS
(b) Having a big nose. The Latin *nasus* means nose, *nasutus* having a nose. "The prolongation and form of the head of these Nasuti may be fairly described as adaptation to useful ends."

NUDNIK
(a) Someone who pesters, nags, or irritates. A bore. Russian from the Yiddish for tedious or boring.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Rh5+! gxh5; 2 Rg7+ Kh8; 3 Qh6 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Stars come out for charity

BBC Children in Need 1998
BBC1, 7.00pm

It is that time again, when telly celebrities do daft things and there is no getting away from Terry Wogan for a whole evening. This year, there is no getting away from Gaby Roslin, either. Good, bad or dreadful, the fare is in the best possible cause and you can always send a donation and switch across to another channel. Among tonight's attractions are TV cooks, including Ainsley Harriott and Antony Worrall-Thompson, doing a sort of *Full Monty*, Jill Dando turning quiz show host, sundry groups led by the Spice Girls plugging their new singles and Denise Van Outen pretending she is Kylie Minogue. Tony Bennett, Boyzone, Hugh Scully, Dale Winton . . . all human life is here, or most of it. The target to beat is the impressive £20.9 million raised last year, the best total since 1991.

Wilderness Walks
BBC2, 8.00pm

Cameron McNeish rounds off his enjoyable series in Oregon, where his fellow walkers are Ray and Jenny Jardine. The Jardines are an unconventional couple who backpack for several months at a time with astonishingly little equipment. They use sheets for tents and a lightweight quilt for a sleeping bag and cook naturally over open fires. Their total pack can weigh no more than an empty rucksack. They are not just walking but communing with nature and seeking a heightened state of consciousness, something McNeish is not quite sure he understands. But any differences are soon forgotten as the trio pick up the Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from the Mexican border to Canada, and climb Middle Sister, a mountain which is more than 10,000ft high and offers sensational views over Oregon.

Garden Doctors
Channel 4, 8.00pm

There is a bit of a story behind tonight's garden makeover. Jacob Marley, whose backyard in Brixton, South London, is to get the treatment, is a choreographer who has worked with the Pet Shop Boys and the Rolling Stones. Then he contracted meningitis, so badly that he was told that his brain would be severely damaged. He has proved the experts wrong on that but his hearing and sight are still impaired, and his deafness has affected his sense of balance. The challenge for the resident experts, Paul Thompson and Ann Marie Powell, is threefold: to make a small space look bigger, to turn a wasteland into what Marley hopes will be a "magical space" and to offset his disability with lots of scent and colour. The solution is clever and striking; however, the film not only makes light of the work involved but omits to say how much it cost.

Gaby Roslin, Pudsey and Terry Wogan with this year's *Children in Need* (BBC1)

Streetmate
Channel 4, 9.30pm

It is still not clear why Channel 4, of all stations, should want to mount its own version of *Blind Date* but if it has to be done the raucously aggressive Davina McCall is the ideal host. Assuming the show is as spontaneous as it appears, one can only admire McCall's cheek in approaching total strangers in the street, asking them saucy questions and trying to pair them off. The sight of McCall and her camera crew looming into view should be enough to send most decent-thinking people running for their lives. But luckily for the show there are enough suckers willing to risk embarrassment. McCall finds them tonight on the streets of Middlesbrough and the beaches of Newquay but, as tends to happen on this show, the build-up is a lot more interesting than the finish. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Letter from America
Radio 4, 8.45pm

Alistair Cooke has been all over the Radio 4 schedules this week, including a reading of Nick Clarke's biography of the great man which has been serialised all week (9.45am) and which ends this morning. The reason for the excitement is Cooke's 90th birthday, which falls today, so that is sufficient reason to tune in to *Letter From America*. Cooke's weekly radio talk began in March 1946, so as a broadcast history of the postwar United States it is without parallel. The gentle style and the mid-Atlantic tones tend to disguise the fact that here is one of the sharpest of commentators on American life. And Cooke's discourses have the further distinguishing mark that you can never tell what they are about just by listening to the first five minutes.

The Friday Play: The Destiny of Nathalie X
Radio 4, 9.00pm

A radio adaptation by William Boyd of his fictional documentary, a merciless and very funny parody of the Hollywood machine in all its glorious grotesqueness. John Sessions plays five of the characters in the story of Aurelien No, a young African film-maker who wins a coveted prize for his first short film, *Le Destin de Nathalie X*. He decides to use the prize-money to remake the film in Hollywood. This could be a launching pad for a piece about a film ruined by Hollywood, but that would be too easy and too predictable. Instead, Boyd has Aurelien making his film unmoved by the mania around him and indeed incorporating some of the madder figures, who include the man with the cleanest teeth in Hollywood. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Kevin Greening. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** John Inverdale **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **9.15** Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë's classic tale (2/7) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs **10.30** The Arts Programme **12.00** Lynn Parsons **4.00am** Jackie Bird

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News. Headlines from around the world. **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Studio guests debate the week's sporting action and look ahead to the weekend. Including coverage of the division three match Mansfield Town v Barnet **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Jonathan Ross **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Bobby Hain **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Richard West

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton **6.00** The Breakfast Show **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Peter Deeley's Drivetime **6.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** James Whales **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **6.30** The Way We Are **6.45** Transplantations **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: One of Ours 2/12 **7.30** Music Review **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Westway **8.30** John Peel **9.00** News; (648 only) News in German **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Early Versions **9.30** Speaking of English **9.45** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Assignment **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Wood, Guts and Brass **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack Alternative **3.00** News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** To Be Continued **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** News **4.15** Soundworks **4.30** Insight; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Focus On Faith; (648 only) News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause For Thought **7.30** Multitrack Alternative **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Insight **10.45** Sports Round-Up **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Alternative **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** To Be Continued **1.45** Poems by Post **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Round-Up **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Insight **4.45** Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour **12.00** Lunchtime Requests **2.00pm** Concerto. Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world. *Presented by John Brunning* **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **9.00** Evening Concert. Corelli (Concerto Grosso No 8 in G minor); Boccherini (String Quartet in C minor); Albicastro (Coel Estes, Angelici Chori); Schubert (Quartet No 2 in F minor); Tartini (Violin Concerto in G); Vivaldi (Stabat Mater) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Concerto in C minor, BWV1060); Janacek (Pohadka)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes *Borodin (In the Steppes of Central Asia); Leclair* (Sonata in D, Dp 13 No 2); Vaughan Williams (Three Shakespeare Songs); Poulenc (Piano Concerto); Falla (La tombeau de Claude Debussy); Martinu (Sonatina); Elgar (Overture: Alassio, In the South).
10.30 Artist of the week: Charles Mackerras
11.00 Sound Stories: Mary Shelley
12.00 Composer of the week: Brahms
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Jean-Philippe Collard, piano (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Marss Jansons and Mark Wigglesworth. With Anne Evans, soprano. Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F); Wagner (Wesendonk-Lieder, arr Motl); Suite: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg); Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor)
4.00 Music Restored (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune The organist Simon Preston talks to Sean Rafferty about his career
7.30 Performance on 3 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Tadaaki Otaka, Saint Stravinsky (Symphonies of Wind Instruments); Per Norgard (Bach to the Future, first UK performance) **8.10** A Sound Read. Ivan Hewett reviews the latest books on music with the journalist Geoffrey Wheatcroft and the professor of English studies, Simon Frith **8.30** Concert, part two. Sibelius (Symphony No 1)
9.20 Postscript: Magnum at the Millennium Gill Pyrah considers Magnum's work as art and asks what the future holds (5/5)
9.45 Leroy Anderson Includes *Forgotten Dreams* performed by the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin
10.00 Hear and Now (Sounding the Century) Verity Sharp introduces highlights from a concert in London's Barbican Hall featuring a rare appearance from the saxophonist John Zorn, who heads a nine-piece ensemble which includes the New York violinist Mark Feldman and the cellist Erik Friedlander
11.30 Punk Jazz: A Portrait of Jaco Pastorius Four programmes in which Charles Shear Murray tells the remarkable story of the bass player (r)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy (r)
1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.30am (FM) World News
5.30 (LW) Test Match Special Australia v England
5.35 (FM) Shipping 5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 (FM) Prayer for the Day With Canon Nick France
5.47 (FM) Farming Today with Anna Hill
6.00 (FM only until 7.00am) Today introduced by Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs Nicole Kidman (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Alistair Cooke — A Celebration r
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Great White Sleuth Mark Carwardine turns shark detective in this strange but true story (r)
11.30 Girlies (2/4) (r)
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Waite tackle more consumer concerns
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibley chairs the film quiz from the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Mrs Shakespeare Robert Nye's *dramatisation of his novel looking at Shakespeare* through the dark eyes of his wife Anne. Starring Maggie Steed and Kenneth Cranham (r)
3.00 Making History Roger Wilkes helps listeners to research their own historical mysteries
3.30 Revenge! Ian Peacock investigates the human desire for revenge (5/5)
3.45 Feedback with Chris Dunkley
4.00 Open Book with Humphrey Carpenter (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 True Lies Comedy panel game hosted by David Aaronovitch, which aims to expose the hidden world of the spin-doctor, finding the truth behind the headlines
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock presents the nightly arts review
7.45 Still Waters (r)
8.00 Any Questions? A panel including Leslie Riddoch debate issues raised by the latest news stories in Moray, Scotland. Jonathan Dimbleby is in the chair
8.45 Letter from America See Choice
9.00 The Friday Play: The Destiny of Nathalie X William Boyd's ironic tale of an African film-maker attempting to remake his prize-winning student film. Starring John Sessions, Maynard Eziashi and Rosaleen Pelan. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes Philip Franks reads the final part of Alain-Fournier's vintage tale
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests with more late-night sports conversation and features, as England's rugby squad begin their campaign for the 1999 World Cup
11.30 (FM) Notes from the Ditch Anne Enright encourages writers and critics to share opinions on gamesmanship in sport
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00 (LW) Test Match Special: Australia v England. Coverage of the second day's play, with commentary by Jonathan Agnew, Henry Blofeld and Christopher Martin-Jenkins
12.00 (FM) News 12.30am (FM) The Late Book: A Man in Full William Hoffkins reads Tom Wolfe's novel about men and their moral outlook (5/10)
12.48 (FM) Shipping 1.00 (FM) As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Bite-sized approach means less to chew on

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

Apart from an opening one hour special, the new **Dispatches** (Channel 4) format is now of half-hour investigative documentaries on difficult social issues. Presumably this reduction is to do with ratings and an assumption of ever-shorter attention spans. There have been some terrific *Dispatches* in the past — well-researched, thoughtful and powerfully presented. It would be a serious loss to viewer choice if the slot went "tabloid".

Last night's programme was on gang rape by young, often underage, black boys of predominantly black victims, also usually underage. It is hard to imagine a more explosive cocktail: sex, race, violence, gang criminality and the abuse of children by children.

Having latched on to the idea that such attacks were on the increase, the *Dispatches* team collated their own national data on rapes carried out by three or more boys over the past few years. They found that 14 cases had come to court since 1996, involving charges against 79 youths. Of these attacks, one was by an Asian gang, nine by all-black gangs and the remaining four gangs all included black boys. Eighty per cent of the accused were black, as were most of the victims. Half the attacks occurred in the Brixton area.

The details were as ghastly as you might imagine. Girls of 12, 13, and 14 years, surrounded at a bus-stop, snatched from a youth club, terrorised with threats of violence, frog-marched to an empty flat or filthy pee-soaked basement and repeatedly raped by boys queueing as if to use a urinal.

One of two girls raped by about 35 boys between them was forced back on a set of concrete stairs for two hours. She could hardly stand afterwards. She was in pain for weeks, barely able to walk. Heaven only knows what it will have done to her psychologically. It is the kind of atrocity normally associated with particularly vicious warfare. The number of incidents is hardly epidemic but one is one too many and suggests a terrifying level of dehumanisation.

You don't have to be Einstein to see the problem that the public airing of this topic poses to the black community. It appears to confirm all the nastiest racial stereotypes about black men and dysfunctional black family life. It could easily be seized on by "politically incorrect" sections of the media who could triumphantly parade this confirmation of their readers' phobias and prejudices while wallowing salaciously in the details of the crime. The excesses of the few would become, yet again, the myth of the many.

Darcus Howe, always something of a maverick, decided to co-operate with the production despite the misgivings of his co-Brixtonians. The burly presenter can be infuriatingly mealy-mouthed, pompous and illogical. This time his thinking has been crystal-clear and unanswerable. This is going on. It is appalling. The community needs to work out why it is happening and stop it. This view was shared by Lee Parker, a Brixton community worker and the only black commentator prepared to talk on camera. "Many people would ostracise you for talking about this," he noted. I hope they don't.

But the general lack of co-operation meant we got little insight into why it was happening. There was some discussion of bodies maturing before emotions. (Is the desire to degrade and abuse a normal part of emotional immaturity?) There were some revealing fragments about attitudes to girls among gang members, dividing them into girlfriends and "slags". White boys do that at least as much as black boys. But many of these girls weren't even branded in this way. Some were seized, virtually at random.

Two mothers were prepared to talk, their faces obscured, and were obviously in denial. There was "no way they'd rape" they said of their convicted sons, and, pathetically: "Boys will be boys. Girls will be girls."

As for *Dispatches*, a topic so horrible, so riddled with difficult issues, intractable problems and far-reaching implications, was always going to test the new short format to the limit. Inevitably it was found wanting, and the courtroom reconstructions, and modish switches into black-and-white or slo-mo, began to look glib.

I have to write this without having seen the follow-up studio discussion chaired by Darcus Howe, which, in fairness, should be seen as an extension of the programme. I hope it casts a little more light on a subject which cried out for much fuller investigation and analysis.

Man's inhumanity other human beings was also on the agenda on BBC2's **Science At War**, which dealt with the history of biological warfare. This was traced back to Japanese experiments during the 1937 campaign in China. (Presumably poisoning wells in medieval Europe or giving blankets infected with smallpox to Native Americans by United States and British officials didn't count.)

Under the guidance of Major Shiro Ishii, the Japanese set up a secret laboratory and factory called Unit 731 in northern China. There they experimented on Chinese prisoners, using them as live human incubators for anthrax, cholera, bubonic plague and the like. They experimented on the local Chinese towns and villages, then pretended to "help" to treat the "natural" disasters in order to gather more data.

The description of the extraction of the last drop of infected blood from a chloroformed prisoner was one of the most unpleasant moments in a particularly unpleasant night's viewing. Inevitably the Americans let the perpetrators go unpunished after the war in order to secure their results.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (77575)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (47759)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8454827)
9.40 Style Challenge Hairdresser of the Year nominees offer makeovers to audience members in return for a donation to Children In Need (9297778)
10.05 City Hospital (9324391)
10.55 News (T) (9184575)
11.00 Real Rooms (9194952)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9104339)
11.55 News (T) (8911074)
12.00 Pass the Buck (4732049) **12.25pm** Going for a Song (4711556) **12.50** The Weather Show (T) (85965448)
1.00 News (T) and weather (40846)
1.30 Regional News (T) (73157310)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (67776827)
2.05 Children in Need: The Final Countdown (T) (17643440)
2.25 Ironside (r) (9949681) **3.15** The Weather Show (r) (T) (2655020)
3.25 Playdays (r) (6885594) **3.45** Bananaman (r) (T) (8387136) **3.50** The All-New Popeye Show (r) (T) (3441778) **3.55** Dear Mr Barker (7038865) **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (T) (9098776) **4.35** Linford's Record Breakers (T) (7668407) **5.00** Newsround (T) (4399117) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5604914)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (672488)
6.00 News (T) and weather (223)
6.30 Regional News (T) (575)
7.00 CHOICE **Children in Need** The Spice Girls get the star-studded telethon off to a start; and Carol Smillie presents a special edition of *Changing Rooms* (8391)
7.30 Regional Update From the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, including a special *Antiques Roadshow* (696049)
7.40 Children in Need Boyzone, B*witched, Matthew Marsden, and Denise Van Outen and Johnny Vaughan keep the music coming; Desmond Lynam reveals how much Radio 2 listeners have raised. Plus: the person whose donation breaks the first million will be collected from their home and brought to London (878285)
9.00 News (T) and weather (4310)
9.30 Children in Need The second half of the evening gets under way with the cast of *Coronation Street* performing a musical tribute to the disco age; an edition of *Bullseye* featuring the cast of *Men Behaving Badly* and Jill Dando. Music from Culture Club, Martine McCutcheon and M People. The *Ready, Steady, Cook* chefs, perform a tribute to *The Full Monty* (89763778)
11.35 Regional Update *Lakesiders'* Emma Boundy sings and a gospel choir leads the singing in a nationwide link-up performance of *My Way* (362914)
12.00 Children in Need Including the cast of *West Side Story* performing hits from the show; and the stars of *Come Dancing* celebrating their 50th anniversary (342315)
1.45am Grand Total (1488599)
1.50 Weather (1476112)
1.55 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.35am Jets and Black Holes (9763117)
7.00 Hairy Jeremy (r) (5519488) **7.05** Teletubbies (r) (2313730) **7.30** Tom and Jerry Kids (2122469) **7.55** Smart (r) (T) (5424759) **8.20** Robinson Sucroe (r) (T) (9017204) **8.45** Johnson and Friends (r) (6722310) **8.55** Hairy Jeremy (r) (5211681)
9.00 Storytime (T) (7329556) **9.10** See You, See Me (5707730) **9.30** Watch (8371049) **9.45** Come Outside (8369204) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (93440) **10.30** Megamaths (9740846) **10.50** Look and Read (9753310) **11.10** Landmarks (9692556) **11.30** English File (3907) **12.00** The Bible in Animation (48827)
12.30pm Working Lunch (67440) **1.00** Johnson and Friends **1.10** Sophie Grigson's Herbs (43994865) **1.15** The History Hour: Farming traditions (r) (679575) **2.15** Art Shorts (50268730)
2.20 Racing from Ascot The **2.40; 3.10;** and the **3.40** races (821391)
4.00 Change That (T) (3418440) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (3428827) **4.55** Lowri: Class (T) (5286001)
5.30 Cricket: The Ashes: Australia v England Highlights of day one of the first Test (T) (952)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (987223)
6.25 Robot Wars (T) (962914)
6.55 Top of the Pops presented by Jamie Theakston (T) (477372)
7.30 Bookworm Kathy Lette reveals the secrets of her success, and thriller writer Robert Harris's fascination with dictators. Last in series (T) (371)
8.00 CHOICE **Wilderness Walks** Cameron McNeish accompanies American long-distance walkers Ray and Jenny Jardine on a trek through the Three Sisters Wilderness in Oregon. Last in series (T) (5681)
8.30 Gardening Neighbours An update on garden improvements in Kenbourne Grove (T) (1483)
9.00 Blackadder Goes Forth: Plan F: Goodbyee Final episode of the First World War comedy (r) (T) (2952)

Sanjeev Bhaskar'a version of the singer Jarvis Cocker (9.30pm)

9.30 Goodness Gracious Me Asian sketch show (T) (87204)
10.00 Have I Got News for You Topical satirical quiz (49556)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (195469)
11.15 Stella Street (T) (853681)
11.30 Later with Jools Holland The Beautiful South, Dr John; Joshua Redman and Ash (10827)
12.30 am Comedy Nation (90860)
1.00 Cafe 21 (46421)
1.30-1.35 Weather
3.00-5.00 Learning Zone: Active Learning: Dynamo (65353)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (9801339)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8579878)
10.15 This Morning Guests include the actress Isabella Rossellini (T) (775778)
12.15pm HTV News (3526643)
12.30 News (T) and weather (94594)
1.00 Shortland Street (35914) **1.30** Home and Away (T) (93865) **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (T) (8491515)
2.40 WALES: Animal Country (2125594)
2.40 Relative Knowledge (2125584)
3.10 News (T) (7640778)
3.15 Regional News (7649049)
3.20 Wizadora (r) (7820914) **3.30** Archibald the Koala (7011198) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2211020) **4.05** Bernard's Watch (4531846) **4.20** Fun House (T) (3449310) **4.50** Top Ten of Everything (2141643)
5.10 A Country Practice (4518020)
5.40 News (T) and weather (571310)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (981049)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (162643)
6.25 HTV West Weather (599117)
6.30 The West Tonight (643)
7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right Hosted by Bruce Forsyth (T) (5989)
7.30 Coronation Street The Street mourns the loss of a favourite son (T) (827)
8.00 The Bill An old flame poses a tough dilemma for Beech (T) (2827)
9.00 Britain's Most Wanted Crime appeals programme featuring reconstructions, surveillance footage, police operations and features on Britain's most wanted criminals (T) (5391)
10.00 News (T) and weather (69310)
10.29 Regional Weather (485001)
10.30 Regional News (218469)

Ian Wright, the West Ham and England footballer (10.40pm)

10.40 Friday Night's All Wright Footballer Ian Wright's guests on his chat show are Caprice, Sheryl Crow, All Saints and the faith healer Eileen Drury (222952)
11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (422310)
12.10am Soundtrax (7808763)
12.25 Pirate TV (7314063)
12.55 God's Gift (1439995)
1.55 Club@vision (7077353)
2.40 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (5447334)
3.10 Smokescreen (b/w, 1964) with Peter Vaughan and John Carson. An insurance investigator looks into an accident in which a burning car crashes off a cliff. Was it really an act of fraud? Directed by Jim O'Connolly (8929421)
4.25 Heirloom (r) (52700518)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (15790860)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (21093)
5.30 News (21228)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm Echo Point (35914)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9630198)
2.40-3.10 Heart of the Country (2125584)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4518020)
6.25-7.00 Central News (162643)
11.30 Nash Bridges (30681)
12.30am God's Gift (93402)
1.30 Club@vision (4147745)
2.15 World Football (5983131)
2.40 seaQuest DSV (8369659)
3.35 Central Jobfinder '98 (739063)
5.20 Asian Eye (3627044)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (3526643)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9871223)
1.00 A Step in Faith (35914)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9630198)
2.40-3.10 Westcountry Update (2125594)
5.08 Birthday People (9148117)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4518020)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (79285)
11.30 Renegade (248285)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (3526643)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3405117)
2.35-3.10 Crafts People (5874117)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4518020)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (79285)
5.00am Freescreen (21093)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9882339)
1.00-1.30 Split Second (35914)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3405117)
2.35-3.10 A Splash of Colour (5874117)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4518020)
6.23 Anglia Weather (590846)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (162643)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (485001)

S4C

Starts: **7.00am The Big Breakfast** (30469) **9.00 Off Limits** (2381827) **9.25 Schools at Work** (5551681) **9.30 Eureka** (8366117) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (8354372) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (4231285) **10.10 TVM** (3910952) **10.25 Un Dau, Tri — Siapwch!** (3915407) **10.40 Top! En Espanol** (9759594) **11.00 The Technology Programme** (4066827) **11.15 Pa Newydd?** (4089778) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (5285) **12.00pm Judge Jo Brown** (66223) **12.30 Sesame Street** (92136) **1.00 Planed Plant** (98063285) **1.15 Tomos y Tanc** (98051440) **1.30 FILM: Saddle the Wind** (99643) **3.00 Italian Kitchen Two** (9020) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (579) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (556) **4.30 Montel Williams** (440) **5.00 Planed Plant** (1865) **5.30 Countdown** (420) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (345223) **6.10 Heno** (903827) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (818049) **7.25 Y Clwb Rygbi** (460533) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (7049) **8.30 Newyddion** (6556) **9.00 Pawb A'i Farn** (3933) **10.00 Brookside** (728169) **10.35 Friends** (193310) **11.05 Eurotrash** (696223) **11.35 Harry Hill** (573371) **12.05am TFI Friday** (6973402) **1.10 FILM: I Like It Like That** (585353) **3.10 FILM: Kiss Them for Me** (231605) **4.55 Diwedd** (1335262)

CHANNEL 4

5.55 am Sesame Street (60285)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30469)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits — Talking about Race (T) (2381827) **9.25** Schools at Work (5551681) **9.30** Eureka! The fruit (8366117) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8354372) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (4231285) **10.15** Schools at Work (2136800) **10.25** Caradean Two (3915407) **10.40** Top 2 En Espanol (9759594) **11.00** The Technology Programme — Design and Make It (4066827) **11.15** Stage One — Natural Inventions (4089778)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (5285) **12.00** Sesame Street (66223) **12.30pm** I Dream of Jeannie (r) (T) (92136) **1.00** Judge Jo Brown (T) (5971846)
1.35 An American Guerrilla in the Philippines (1950) FILM Tyrone Power helps guerrillas to fight the Japanese. Directed by Fritz Lang (T) (62909827)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (579) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (556) **4.30** Countdown (T) (7652846) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (5288469)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (420)
8.00 TFI Friday Joining Chris Evans are Sheryl Crow, Eddie Izzard and Keith Floyd (77827)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (489117)
7.55 The Political Slot (942730)
8.00 CHOICE **Garden Doctors** Partially deaf and blind choreographer Jacob Marley has his garden made over by the team (T) (7049)
8.30 Brookside Kylie makes a sinister discovery (T) (6556)

Courtney Cox, Lisa Kudrow and Jennifer Aniston star (9pm)

9.00 Friends: The One With All the Wedding Dresses Rachel has a jealous reaction to news of Ross and Emily's engagement; Chandler looks for a solution to Joey's snoring (T) (7020)
9.30 CHOICE **Streetmate** Davina McCall plays Cupid in Middlesbrough and Newquay (T) (72372)
10.00 Frasier Frasier and Niles reminisce about their year together (r) (T) (67952)
10.30 Eurotrash Cowboy Laila who has brought white-trash US culture to Scandinavia (T) (475117)
11.05 Harry Hill (T) (696223)
11.35 TFI Friday (r) (4200040)
12.40am I Like It Like That (1994) FILM Drama about a South Bronx Puerto Rican family. Directed by Darnell Martin (T) (697402)
2.40 Kiss Them for Me (1957) FILM Cary Grant is a Second World War pilot on leave who falls for Suzy Parker. Comedy directed by Stanley Donen (T) (804315)
4.20 Fugitive Love (r) (92648131)
4.35 Infomercial (15793957)
4.40 Home to Roost (T) (1049228)
5.45 Stunt Dawgs (6785808)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News and Sport (2604204) **7.00** WideWorld (r) (T) (6360681) **7.30** Milkshake! (7563533)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (1881117) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (2774759) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (2766730)
9.00 Floyd Uncorked (r) (T) (7693198) **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4449594) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1604907)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2207223) **11.10** Leeza (r) (9229488) **12.00** 5 News at Noon (T) (2777846)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (7608914) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6369952) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (7607285)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5922198) **2.30** Good Afternoon (6337681)
3.30 Kissing Miranda (1995, TVM) FILM with Larry Poindexter and Alex Meneses. A top salesman has an affair with his boss's daughter and she offers him promotion in exchange for marriage. Directed by Aleks Horvat (T) (3759399)
5.20 The Roseanne Show (7540579) **6.00** 100 Per Cent (5420662) **6.30** Family Affairs (T) (5411914)
7.00 5 News (T) (5926914)

Mariella Frostrup introduces another selection of guests (7.30pm)

7.30 Frostrup on Friday Arts and entertainment chat show (5417198)
8.00 Fort Boyard (T) (9275662)
9.00 Once You Meet a Stranger (1996, TVM) FILM Thriller with Jacqueline Bissett and Therese Russell. Two women jokingly agree to trade murders, but when one of the murders takes place, the other woman realises she's expected to keep the deal. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (T) (79616876)
10.40 The People Vs Jerry Sadowitz Comic talk show (7356117)
11.10 American Boyfriends (1989) FILM Drama with Margaret Garet Langrick and John Wildman. Canadian teenage friends find love and adventure on a long trip. Directed by Sandy Wilson (7432198)
1.00 am The Road Home (1989) FILM Drama about the rehabilitation of a violent teenager, with Donald Sutherland and Adam Horowitz (22291995)
3.05 Spare the Rod (1961) FILM Classroom drama with Max Bygraves and Donald Pleasence (4821624)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2729605) **5.30** 100 Per Cent (r) (1670686)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see *Saturday's Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am The Simpsons (81117) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (99730) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (86001) **9.00** Guilty! (48575) **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (99136) **11.00** Oprah (79372) **12.00** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (1141198) **12.55pm** Special K Collection (38301117) **1.00** Days of Our Lives (94966682) **1.55** Special K Collection (65669681) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (8062223) **2.55** Special K Collection (4722310) **3.00** Jenny Jones (5751353) **3.55** Special K Collection (2725488) **4.00** Guilty! (33933) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4594) **6.00** Married with Children (6827) **5.30** Friends (1597) **7.00** The Simpsons (5233) **7.00** The Simpsons (93971) **8.00** The Simpsons (1643) **8.30** The Simpsons (2038) **9.00** TBA (65020) **10.00** Cops (96846) **10.30** Cops (55074) **11.00** Friends (34662) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (70310) **12.30am** Renegade (48976) **1.30** Long Play (1549066)

SKY BOX OFFICE

To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Face/Off (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **GI Jane (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Bean (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996)**

FILMFOUR

Channel 4's film subscription channel. For subscription details, ring 0800 44 1234
6.00pm Short Attention Span Cinema (3404339) **8.00 Bandwagon (1995)** (3476556) **10.00 The Tilt and the Moon (1994)** (7252965) **11.30 The Pillow Book (1995)** (54876914) **1.40am The Ninth Configuration (1980)** (4901112) **3.40 Blood Simple (1983)** (7411806)

SKY MOVIEMAX

8.00am Son of Godzilla (1967) (213391) **7.30 Sense and Sensibility (1995)** (2657204) **9.45 Friendship's Field (1996)** (32967759) **11.30 Freeze Frame (1992)** (55662) **1.00pm Son of Godzilla (1967)** (41001) **3.00 Sense and Sensibility (1995)** (25918136) **5.15 Friendship's Field (1996)** (64915136) **8.00 The Craft (1996)** (41440) **10.00 Scream (1996)** (188020) **11.55 Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)** (554594) **1.30am Friday the 13th (1980)** (936792) **3.05 Halloween IV: Return of Michael Myers (1988)** (3638606605)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Big (1988) (26575) **8.00 Three Wishes (1995)** (56391) **10.00 It Takes Two (1995)** (25488) **12.00 Big (1988)** (48914) **2.00pm Angels in the Attic (1997)** (57001) **4.00 Three Wishes (1995)** (7440) **6.00 It Takes Two (1995)** (77865) **8.00 The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996)** (72310) **10.00 Mulholland Falls (1996)** (462694) **11.50 The Pallbearer (1996)** (657020) **1.30am The Deliverance of Elaine (1996)** (18044) **3.00 In the Line of Duty: Blaze of Glory (1996)** (83150) **4.30 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (52976)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Glass Menagerie (1950) (1462285) **6.00 Suspicion (1941)** (8226952) **8.00 The Rain People (1969)** (8205469) **10.00 The Laughing Policeman (1977)** (1544198) **11.55 The Outlaw (1943)** (6929198) **1.50am The Rainbow (1988)** (6344711) **3.45 Son of Paleface (1952)** (85041537)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro on TNT (70734440) **11.35 WCW Thunder WCW** (58434739) **1.15am Zigzag (1970)** (18086399) **3.15 Shaft's Big Score (1972)** (25847676)

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Sports Centre **7.15** Trans World Sport **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** World Cup of Golf **11.00** Spanish Primera Liga **1.00pm** League Review **1.30** Futbol Mundial **2.00** What A Weekend **2.30** Watersports World **3.30** Rugby Club **4.30** Trans World Sport **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Schoolboy Football: England v Scotland — Live **9.00** Wrestling **11.00** Sports Centre **12.00** Hold the Back Page **1.00am** Wrestling **3.00** World Cup of Golf — Live **5.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Formula Three **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Tight Lines **10.00** Football League Review **10.30** Futbol Mundial **11.00** Cricket: Australia v England **2.00pm** World Cup of Golf **4.00** Women's Golf: LPGA Tour Championship **5.30** World Sport Special **8.00** Wild Spirits **6.30** H2O **7.00** Cricket: Australia v England **10.00** Futbol Mundial **10.30** Wild Spirits **11.00** Motorsport **11.30** Cricket: Australia v England — Live **5.59am** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00** Trans World Sport **1.00pm** Tight Lines **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **3.30** Ice Hockey: London v Newcastle **6.00** Motorsport **5.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **7.00** World Cup of Golf **9.00** Women's Golf: LPGA Tour Championship — Live **11.00** H2O **11.30** Rebel TV **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Showjumping **8.30** Alpine Skiing **10.00** Modern Pentathlon **11.00** International Motorsports **12.00** Snowboarding: PIS World Cup — Live **1.00pm** Alpine Skiing **2.00** Tennis: Chase Championships **4.00** Alpine Skiing **6.00** Alpine Skiing: World Cup Men's Giant Slalom — Live **6.00** API Rally: Australia **6.30** Mountain Biking **8.00** Alpine Skiing: World Cup Men's Giant Slalom — Live **8.45** World Supercross Championship — Live **10.00** Bowling **11.00** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Bergerac **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juror Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** Bergerac **4.55** EastEnders **5.30** Angels **6.00** Due South **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **10.45** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? **11.25** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** Dr Who Omnibus **2.10 FILM: Lawless Frontier 3.00** Shopping With Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box **7.00** Doctor in The House **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** Surgical Spirit **8.30** A Fine Romance **9.00** Coronation St **9.00** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five O **12.00** Coronation St **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Bigger Fish **1.30** Watching **2.00** Thirtysomething **3.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hawaii Five O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Coronation St **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Professionals **9.00** Coronation St **9.30** Sex Lies **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Close

Drew Barrymore is on the receiving end of a terrifying phone call in Wes Craven's darkly comic horror, *Scream* (Sky MovieMax 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE]

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **5.30** Pull the Other One **7.00** Boon **8.00** Blue Heelers **9.00** Love Hurts **16.00** That's Love **10.30** The Good Sex Guide Abroad **11.00** Safe and Sound **11.30** My Two Wives **12.00** Pull the Other One **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.40** Gummi Bears **7.00** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **8.45** Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.15** Tots TV **10.30** Let's Wiggle! **10.35** The Big Garage **10.50** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.25pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** Let's Wiggle! **1.35** The Big Garage **1.50** PB and J Otter **2.00** Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** Aladdin **4.10** 101 Dalmatians **4.40** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Microsoap **5.45** Recess **6.00** The Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Pepper Ann **7.15** Brotherly Love **7.45** Microsoap **8.00 FILM: Aladdin and the King of Thieves 9.30** Microsoap **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.00** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.30** Beetleborgs Metallic **9.00** Masked Rider **9.30** The Incredible Hulk **10.00** Iron Man **10.30** X-Men **11.00** Spiderman **11.30** Life with Louie **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Caspar **12.45** Toonsylvania **1.00** Sam and Max **1.15** Home to Rent **1.00** The Incredible Hulk **2.00** Iron Man **2.30** X-Men **3.00** Spiderman **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Ace Ventura **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** Earle Indiana **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Mowgli: The the Jungle Book **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

8.00am Fraggle Rock **6.30** Muppet Babies **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Teletubbies **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Rocky and the Dodos/Bagpuss/Mr Men **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Angry Beavers **4.00** Catdog **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am California Dreams **7.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** USA High **9.00** Heartbreak High **10.00** Sweat **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** USA High **12.00** Ready or Not **12.30pm** Sweat **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** California Dreams **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** USA High **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Sweet Valley High **5.30** Hang Time **6.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** In the House **7.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Crosswords **5.30** Prize Time **5.45** Family Fortunes **6.15** Prize Time **6.30** Catchphrase **7.00** Prize Time **7.15** 100 Per Cent **7.45** Prize Time **7.55** The Crystal Maze **8.00** Prize Time **8.15** Strike it Lucky **9.45** Prize Time **10.00** Endurance UK **10.30** Prize Time **10.45** The Cooler **11.15** Prize Time **11.00** Carmel Knowledge **12.30am** Treasure Hunt **1.30** Second Guess **2.00** Studs **2.30** Family Fortunes **3.00** Endurance UK **3.30** Blockbusters **4.00** Fifteen-to-One **4.30** Give Us a Clue **5.00** Shopping with Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The Extremists **5.30** Bushido **9.00** The Men Who Killed Kennedy **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex **11.00 FILM: Stuck on You 1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35 FILM: Space Zombie Bingo 3.30** The Men Who Killed Kennedy **4.30** Italian Stripping Housewives **5.00** Freaky Stories **5.30** Bushido

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmonds **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Ellen **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00 FILM: Manhattan 12.00** The Late Show **1.00am** Sledgehammer **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Girls on Top **3.30** Nightstand

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
6.00 Battlestar Galactica **16.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Invisible Man **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Amazing Stories **4.30** Secrets of the Paranormal **6.00** Sightings **8.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **0.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00 FILM: Invader 11.50** Sci-Fi Channel Special **12.00 FILM: Flat of the North Star 2.00am** Tenchi Muyo **2.30** Tales of the Unexpected **3.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am The Joy of Painting **6.30** Gardeners' Diary **7.00** Garden Doctors **7.30** A Weekend's Work **8.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **8.30** Furniture on the Mend **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** A Weekend's Work **11.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **11.30** Furniture on the Mend **12.00** Home Again **12.30pm** Room for Improvement **1.00** Cookabout **1.30** In the Workshop **2.00** Hometime **2.30** The Decoman **8.00** Two's Country **3.30** These Four

MOTOR RALLYING 50

Brothers united in aiming for world championship success

SPORT

GOLF 54

Financial advisers take first-day lead in Corporate Challenge

Victory grants breathing space

Hoddle earns extra time to silence critics

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BECAUSE be was smiling and the mood was right, it was put to Glenn Hoddle after England's 2-0 win over the Czech Republic that he had gained a generous clutch of grey hairs over the past few troubled months. "The only reason I've got grey hairs is because I've got a 15-year-old daughter," he said.

This was football as pleasure again, not as pain. Hoddle had scarcely smiled as much in the aftermath of the draw with Italy that took England to the World Cup. The England coach talked about how he had shared a joke with Ian Wright, his saviour-in-chief, in the dressing-room after the game at Wembley on Wednesday night and made it sound as though they were friends savouring the camaraderie of a great triumph.

In some small way, perhaps they were. It may have been no coincidence that his most loyal disciples came through for him. Paul Merson, Wright and Darren Anderton, all devotees of Eileen Drewery and the Hoddle regime, came through just when it was beginning to seem as though his hold on the national team was in freefall.

The crisis is not over yet, because the result has done nothing to improve England's standing in their European championship qualifying group. If they had lost, though, the situation would have become all but irretrievable. Morale would have scraped the floor. Now, there is a glimmer of light.

If England are to have any chance of resuscitating their qualifying campaign by beating Poland at Wembley on March 27, Hoddle, to use his own terminology, must take his arrogant head off and start listening to some decent advice, particularly in the area of man-management. However much he protests, he is coming perilously close to losing his entire squad with his treatment of them, on the training pitch and in post-match debriefings. If he does not improve that aspect of his coaching, the problem will worsen.

Make no mistake, there is a significant number of players on the inside of the England squad seething about their treatment, about Hoddle's dismissiveness and coldness towards them, just as much as Andy Cole is from the outside. It is just that the ones on the inside have too much to lose if they speak out.

If Hoddle is willing to listen and learn he will use the time between now and the next international, against France on February 10, to try to build a few bridges, to redefine his attitude towards his players. While he is about it, he could do worse than to take a couple of simple steps towards avoiding the kind of needless public relations gaffes that disfigured the run-up to the match against the Czechs. If he carries on regardless, then the same problems will resurface. Everyone prefers positive thinking when it comes to the national team, but Hoddle and his advisers at the Football Association sometimes seem to crave antagonism.

Late on Wednesday night, thankfully, all was rosy. Hoddle devoted the majority of his press conference to a paean to Wright and Dion Dublin, the strike partnership that had performed so well on its first outing. Wright set both goals in motion, Dublin provided a sublime flicked header to put Merson in for the second.

"Dion was impeccable," Hoddle said. "Anyone who ever suggested he was not international class should be embarrassed. His intelligence is spot on and he organises from the front, which is a very rare asset. The movement from the front two was better tonight than it has been and because of that the passing was better. Wrighty's movement off the ball was a lesson for any young striker.

"Dion has got all-round ability and he finds space where other players with more pace might not. The first yard is in his head, just like it is with Teddy Sheringham. He is switched on defensively and despite everyone going on about his age he is only 29. Wrighty knows it is going to stop for him at some stage, so why not just go out and enjoy himself? He loves the game.

"Games like tonight are all about helping me find out whether the two of them could start against Poland. When you look at the talent we have got in that position with Alan Shearer and Michael Owen, then it bodes well for us. If anything did happen before the Poland game and we were without those players, then we know now we have got the people to come in for them."

Both Dublin and Wright, in fact, would be justified in feeling hard done by if they do not retain their places. At last, Hoddle has a nice problem to worry about.

TOMORROW

"There was no way I could fall any lower than the point I got to in the summer."
Stan Collymore breaks his silence

Head start: Alec Stewart, the England captain, took time out during the final net practice before the start of the first Test of the Ashes series against Australia in Brisbane by showing off his football skills to the watching spectators. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Taylor celebrates 100th Test, page 52

England face sterner test against Italy

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND, having scored more than 100 points against The Netherlands in their opening World Cup qualifying game, will be harder pressed against Italy in their second match. An unchanged XV will be on duty at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield on Sunday, seeking first place in the group and avoiding yet another draw which the World Cup organisers have seen fit to inflict on the competing teams.

The third-placed teams (The Netherlands, Georgia and, in all probability, Portugal) go through to repechages, but the second-placed teams in each of the three European qualifying groups must draw for the pools in which they compete in the finals next year. The arcane ways of the organisers are baffling but, by hook or by crook, the host nations must end up as precisely that — hosts.

In the unlikely event of Ireland losing to Romania on Saturday, for example, they would still go through as Europe 1; whatever happens at Huddersfield or, next month, at Murrayfield, England will be Europe 2 and Scotland, Europe 3. All the more reason for a restructured tournament that recognises the huge imbalance of playing standards and seeded teams accordingly.

Clive Woodward expects a physical game on Sunday even though the Italians, who confirm their starting XV today, are missing at least ten familiar faces. No Vaccari, no Francescato, no Sgorlon or Orlandi; injuries, suspension and personal differences have removed many of the players who have carried Italy to a place at the Five Nations table next season.

"This is Italy's first crack at England since the expansion of the Five Nations was announced," Woodward, England's coach, said. "They will be keen to do well."

The Netherlands, beaten 67-7 by Italy on Wednesday night, look forward now to a repechage meeting with South Korea. England took things gently yesterday, walking through their moves in training at Leeds University before releasing the four players surplus to requirements this weekend — Phil de Glanville, Tom Beim, Tony Diprose and Will Green.

Ten players have been subcontracted to the management group that has organised an English entry to the Dubai Sevens on December 2-4. The squad, which will be coached by Andrew Harriman, will be led by Mike Friday, the Wasps scrum half.

Scotland have dropped Gregor Townsend for the international against South Africa at Murrayfield tomorrow. Townsend, who is replaced by Duncan Hodge, is one of five changes to the side, announced yesterday, that lost to the New Zealand Maoris last Saturday. Rob Wainwright, Rowen Shepherd and Tony Stanger were omitted from the squad altogether on Wednesday, while Townsend and Stuart Grimes, who makes way for Doddie Weir, have themselves to be content with places on the bench.

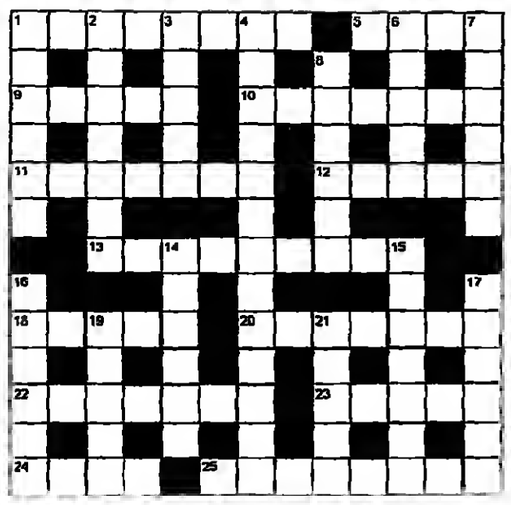
There are three new caps, the centre pairing of Jamie Mayer and John Leslie, and Anthony Pountney, the Northampton open-side flanker who was born in the Channel Islands but opted for Scotland under the tutelage of Ian McGeechan, his club coach.

Alan Tait switches to the right wing. Scotland brought forward the announcement of their team by a day to comply with a new International Board directive which they had earlier overlooked.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: M S Perry (Bath); D O Luger (Harlequins), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), J C Guscott (Bath), A S Healey (Leicester); P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), O J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester, captain), G S Archer (Newcastle), S B Clarke (Richmond), N A Back (Leicester), M E Corry (Leicester). **Replacements:** N C Beal (Northampton), M J Catt (Bath), O J Greenwood (Saracens), R A Hill (Saracens), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), G C Rowntree (Leicester), P & T Greening (Sale).
DUBAI SEVENS SQUAD: R Underwood (Bedford), B Daniel (Saracens), P Hull (Bristol), P Sampson (Wasps), N Burrows (London Irish), M Friday (Wasps), K Chesney (Saracens), C Davis (Saracens), S Foale (Northampton), G Seely (Northampton).
SCOTLAND: D Lee (London Scottish); A Tait (Newcastle Falcons), J Mayer (Edinburgh Reivers), J Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers); D Hodge (Edinburgh Reivers), B Redpath (Edinburgh Reivers, captain); T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), P Burnell (London Scottish), S Murray (Bedford), G Weir (Newcastle Falcons), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), A Pountney (Northampton), *E Peters (Bath). **Replacements:** K Logan (Wasps), G Townsend (Brive), G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), M Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), O Hilton (Bath), S Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1568

ACROSS
1 Promotion of kin (8)
5 Part of leg: baby animal (4)
9 Suspension of hostilities (5)
10 Obvious (7)
11 That which is left over (7)
12 Barbarian tribesmen (5)
13 Getting bald (4,2,3)
18 Challenging behaviour (5)
20 Offer: resist (4,3)
22 Warning: wariness (7)
23 Surface lustre (5)
24 Cleopatra its serpent (A & C) (4)
25 Get together (8)

DOWN
1 Oath-giving official (6)
2 Drop like stone (7)
3 Greek th (5)
4 Amorous burble (5,8)
6 Watchful (5)
7 One irrationally worshipped (6)
8 Dwarf (6)
14 Humorously incongruous (6)
15 Saw (7)
16 French chorus-line dance (6)
17 Position, attitude (6)
19 Thin porridge (5)
21 Strong cotton fabric (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1567
ACROSS: 1 Brooking 5 Hill 8 Motte 9 Pushkin 11 Lot 12 Aborigine 13 Dubbed 15 Emigré 18 Scapegoat 19 Pub 20 Askance 21 Scuba 22 Mote 23 Handsome
DOWN: 1 Bumbled 2 Octet 3 Keep an eye on 4 Nippon 6 Inkling 7 Lunge 10 Stigmatised 14 Blanket 16 Embrace 17 Novena 18 Swarm 19 Pluto

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Real target is spoilt for choice

BY STEPHEN WOOD

A LAND of opportunity is beckoning Steve McManaman, if only he could decide how to get there. McManaman's contract at Liverpool expires at the end of the season, and the number of clubs courting his services as a free agent has reached double figures.

Real Madrid are favourites to entice the 26-year-old forward. The Spanish club are rumoured to have prepared a £3 million bid, designed to fit in with the transfer window in Spain between December 21 and January 3. Liverpool insist they have received no approach from Real.

Nevertheless, Real remain the likely destination, even though, as Colin Gordon, McManaman's advisor, revealed yesterday, there are up to 13 other clubs interested. Gordon said: "There is interest from England, Spain and Italy. Nothing has been concluded yet, because it is a big decision facing Steve. He is also a loyal person, and could still decide to stay at Liverpool."

McManaman has a clause in his contract that states he may sign a pre-contract deal with any other club on January 1, 1999, and it is likely that Real will try and tempt him with a package worth £1.6 million a year, tax-free.

Manchester United yesterday denied reports that they are to buy a controlling stake in Adelaide Sharks, the Australia-based football club. Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said: "Those reports are absolutely untrue. We were approached by the Sharks in the summer, but the board of directors turned down their proposals."

Hendry overrun as his game goes to pot

BY PHIL YATES

LOP-SIDED snooker exchanges involving Stephen Hendry are nothing new. On countless occasions, the Scot has ruthlessly dissected challengers, working on the principle that the wider his margin of victory, the more satisfaction he will extract from the result.

At the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Bournemouth last night, Hendry experienced a startling role reversal. After a session, on Wednesday evening, which must qualify as the worst of his career, Hendry was beaten by Marcus Campbell 9-0.

Losing nine consecutive frames against a fellow-member of the snooker's elite group would be unexpected enough for someone of Hendry's lofty status, but to be comprehensively routed by Campbell, a bespectacled journeyman from Dumbarton, is astounding.

In 13 years as a professional, Hendry has only been whitewashed four times — by Mark Johnston-Allen, Joe Swail, Alan McManus, and as a rookie, by Paddy Brown. However, all of those matches were contested over the best-of-nine frame sprint distance.

Previously, Hendry's heaviest defeat in a best-of-17 frame contest had been a 9-1 trouncing at the hands of Cliff Thorburn in 1987. However, even that pales against his embarrassingly ineffective attempt to contain Campbell, the world No 74.

The six-times world champion, who led the rankings for an unbroken spell from 1990 until he was displaced by John Higgins earlier this year, was devoid of confidence. He repeatedly squandered scoring opportunities and missed several elementary pots, to the growing bemusement of the crowd.

Campbell, who edged Hendry 5-4 in the last 16 of the Scottish Open in February, won the first two frames on the blue then eased away as Hendry suffered an unprecedented collapse. Not since losing 9-2 to Mark Williams in the 1997 British Open final has he been so thoroughly overwhelmed.

At times, Hendry must have wished for the first session to end there and then. He aggregated only 33 points in its closing six frames and did not reach double figures in any of the last five. Try as he might, Campbell could not disguise an element of surprise.

It was difficult to detect any technical gremlins in a cue-action that has enabled Hendry to capture 66 titles worldwide and collect unequalled total prize money of £5,729,357. An unaccustomed dearth of self-belief is nearer the explanation. Hendry rallied from 7-0 and 8-2 adrift to beat Mike Hallett 9-8 in the final of the 1991 Benson and Hedges Masters, but no one has ever managed to overturn 8-0 arrears in a best-of-17 frame match.

Hendry: elementary misses

On the day that Ronnie O'Sullivan withdrew from the championship due to "physical and mental exhaustion", Hendry, who has won only one of the last 14 world ranking tournaments he has entered, showed classic burn-out symptoms himself.

With two thirds of the season remaining, Hendry's schedule is not the cause. On this evidence, a decade of pressure as the player everyone wants to beat looks to have weakened his powers. Whether the malady is just a temporary phase remains to be seen.

Hendry certainly appears to have struck the same psychological war encountered by Steve Davis when he surrendered his position of pre-eminence. Davis partially recovered to add a significant number of trophies to his collection, but was never quite so fearsome again.

Quinten Hann, who caused an upset himself by beating Higgins in the first round of the Grand Prix last month, awaits Campbell in the last 32 after a decisive 9-3 victory over Billy Snaddon, Hendry's erstwhile practice partner, yesterday.

Terry Murphy, who was forced to miss the qualifying competitions of the China International, Thailand Open and Irish Open two months ago with a broken ankle, scored a welcome 9-3 win over Lee Richardson and will now meet Brian Morgan or Higgins in the last 16.

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